

**Illustrated memoir of an eventful expedition into Central America, resulting in the discovery of the idolatrous city of Iximaya : in an unexplored region, and the possession of two remarkable Aztec children, Maximo (the boy) and Bartola (the girl), descendants and specimen of the sacerdotal caste (now nearly extinct), of the ancient Aztec founders of the ruined temples of that country / described by John L. Stephens and other travelers ; translated from the Spanish of Pedro Velasquez of San Salvador.**

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Stephens, John L., 1805-1852.  
National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

### **Publication/Creation**

New York : Wynkoop, Hallenbeck & Thomas, 1860.

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/x838cmmq>

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✓ Illustrated

ILLUSTRATED MEMOIR

OF AN EVENTFUL

# Expedition into Central America

RESULTING IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE

IDOLATROUS CITY OF IXIMAYA,

IN AN UNEXPLORED REGION; AND THE POSSESSION OF TWO REMARKABLE

## AZTEC CHILDREN

MAXIMO (the boy), and BARTOLA (the girl),

DESCENDANTS AND SPECIMENS OF THE SACERDOTAL CASTE (NOW NEARLY  
EXTINCT), OF THE ANCIENT AZTEC FOUNDERS OF THE RUINED  
TEMPLES OF THAT COUNTRY,

DESCRIBED BY JOHN L. STEPHENS, Esq.,  
AND OTHER TRAVELERS.

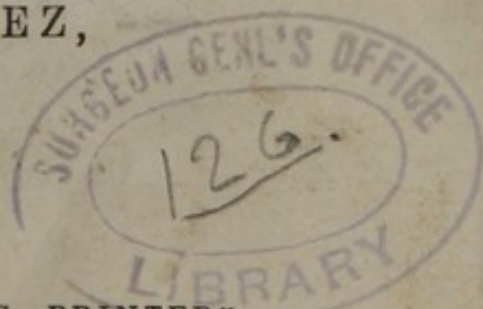
TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH OF  
PEDRO VELASQUEZ,  
OF SAN SALVADOR.

NEW YORK:

WYNKOOP, HALLENBECK & THOMAS, PRINTERS,

No. 113 FULTON STREET.

1860.



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OF AN AFRICAN

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# PREFACE.

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ON Monday, July 4th, 1853, the AZTEC LILLIPUTIANS had the honor to be presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty, QUEEN VICTORIA, having previously visited the families of Sir JAMES CLARKE, Sir BENJAMIN BRODIE, DOCTORS LATHAM, GUTHRIE, HODGKIN, and been seen by Professors OWEN, GRANT, and FARADAY, and the heads of the Faculty generally, who considered them a curiosity so unique and extraordinary, as to warrant their commending them to the notice of Royalty. At the palace, Her Majesty, their Royal Highnesses PRINCE ALBERT, the PRINCE OF WALES, the PRINCESS ROYAL, and the PRINCESS ALICE, viewed them with acknowledged gratification; and the pleasure they expressed was perfectly in accordance with the commendations bestowed on the Lilliputians by their Serene Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA, PRINCE HOLENLOHE LANGENBOURG, the DUKE and DUCHESS OF SAXE COBOURG, and the other members of the Royal Party present at the interview. Indeed, the excitement they occasioned at the Palace was far greater than that which their Guardians had expected; and the perfect satisfaction which Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses were pleased to intimate, will ever be one of the most gratifying reminiscences to those who accompanied the Aztecs to England.

From the above period down to the present time, the Aztecs have continued in Europe, attracting the greatest attention from the Royal Families, to all of whom they have been presented, and from Physicians, Naturalists, and other classes interested in the Physiology of the Human Race.

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## European Patrons of the Exhibition.

Her Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA, the PRINCE CONSORT, the DUCHESS OF KENT, and all the ROYAL FAMILY.

EMPEROR AND EMPRESS NAPOLEON, EMPRESS' MOTHER, PRINCE AND PRINCESS NAPOLEON, and all the IMPERIAL FAMILY OF FRANCE.

KING AND QUEEN OF PRUSSIA: present, ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT, LECHENSTEIN, and all the PRINCES OF BERLIN.

EMPEROR, EMPRESS, and all the ROYAL FAMILY OF AUSTRIA.

KING AND QUEEN OF BAVARIA.

KING AND QUEEN OF SAXONY.

KING AND QUEEN OF HANOVER.

KING AND QUEEN OF HOLLAND.

EX-QUEEN OF FRANCE.

EX-QUEEN OF SPAIN.

PRESIDENT FILLMORE AND FAMILY, OF AMERICA.



(From the *London Morning Advertiser*, July 25, 1853.)

THE AZTECS.—A throng of distinguished and fashionable visitors have honored these extraordinary and incomprehensible little problems of humanity with visits during the week. Their Majesties the KING and QUEEN OF HANOVER, and the CROWN PRINCE and PRINCESS, and the whole of the late ROYAL FAMILY OF FRANCE, including the EX-QUEEN, visited the Hanover-square rooms; also, the

DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND,  
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD,  
LORD WILLIAM LENNOX,  
DUKE OF ARGYLE,  
DUCHESS OF ORLEANS,  
LORD and LADY BLANTYRE,  
DUKE D'AUMALE,  
DUKE DE CHARTRES,  
COUNT DE PARIS,  
HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS the GRAND  
DUCHESS OF LEUCHTENBERG,  
H. R. H. THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE,  
HER SERENE HIGHNESS THE HEREDITARY  
GRAND DUCHESS OF MECKLENBURGH  
STRELITZ,  
PRINCESS MARY OF BADEN,  
DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, and party,  
DUCHESS OF HAMILTON, and family,  
COUNTESS OF ESSEX, and LADY ADELA  
CAPEL,  
EARL and COUNTESS OF WILTON,  
EARL and COUNTESS BRUCE,  
LORD BROUGHAM,

LORD WARD,  
LORD BOSTON,  
MARCHIONESS OF AYLESBURY,  
VISCOUNTESS EBRINGTON,  
COUNTESS OF KILDARE,  
MARQUIS OF WATERFORD and VISCOUNTESS  
CANNING,  
EARL OF HARROWBY,  
EARL OF HARDWICKE,  
MARQUIS OF CLANRICARDE,  
EARL OF ROSSE,  
LORD MONTEAGLE,  
EARL and COUNTESS POWIS,  
LADY ANN DASHWOOD,  
LADY GAGE,  
LADY SMART,  
COLONEL WEYMOUTH,  
GENERAL DUMAS,  
MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH and PRUSSIAN  
EMBASSIES,  
MISS GLADSTONE,  
MR. SYDNEY HERBERT,  
LORD TANKERVILLE,

And many other members of the aristocracy. The ex-Queen of the French not only expressed the great interest she took in the Liliputian wonders, but substantially testified her approbation, in the form of a valuable present. Her example has been imitated by many other visitors, and so numerous have been the contributions of the ladies in the way of jewels, toys, and habiliments, that the question may well be asked—who would not be an Aztec?

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#### EXTRACTS FROM A SECOND LETTER FROM VON HUMBOLDT TO MR. MORRIS,

“DATED BERLIN, PRUSSIA, January 14th, 1856.

“It is with lively satisfaction, sir, that I can give the repeated assurance that their Majesties the King and Queen of Prussia, with the greatest interest, made a prolonged observation of your Aztec Liliputians, in the Castle of Charlottenburg, on the 26th Dec., 1855. This interest is, as I hereupon willingly declare, by no means such as tends only to the satisfaction of a common curiosity, but rather that the gentle, thriving children, for their age so little progressed in their intellectual development, appear to offer a worthy study to those who seriously occupy themselves with the types of human organization, and with the laws respecting them. As it regards the characteristic signs which your little Aztecs present, they display (as has already often been remarked) a great resemblance to the sculptures of Pallenque, and the considerable number of religious paintings in the old Mexican manuscripts, which I have published. But the style of the sculptures and paintings is ascribed to the race of Toltecs. If, now, your little Aztecs are an abnormal deviation, and indeed microcephali (small heads), whilst the other parts of their body are proportionate, the question presents itself, whether their parents possess the same features, the same almost oriental, strange expression of the eyes, and the same almost curly black hair of the little girl? The tribes that succeeded each other in Mexico are the Olmecs, which have extended their wanderings to the Nicaragua, the Toltecs, who emigrated to Tula in 670, and the Chickmecs and Aztecs in the twelfth century.”



# THEIR AMERICAN REPUTATION.

PREVIOUS to their European tour, the Aztecs spent a short period in this country, where they attracted much of the attention which has since become universal, in proportion as they have been more widely examined, and become better known. From high and intelligent sources in this country, as also from the Press at large, numerous commendatory remarks and notices were received, a few of which are appended.

“ PRESIDENTIAL MANSION, January 21, 1852.

“ MR. J. M. MORRIS : *Sir*—Your note of inquiry has been received, and in reply I am pleased to inform you that the visit of the Aztecs to the Executive Mansion was entertaining to us all. They are a greater phenomenon, more extraordinary in their appearance, more agreeable in their dispositions, more pleasing in their manners, and withal more intelligent, than we had anticipated.

“ Respectfully, &c.,

“ MRS. M. FILLMORE.”

## “THE AZTEC LILIPUTIANS.

“ WASHINGTON, January 27th, 1852.

“ The Aztec children, under the protection of their guardian, visited us at the Capitol to-day, and, as members of the Senate and House of Representatives, we are pleased to add our testimony in their behalf, to that already given.

“ We consider them altogether the most remarkable specimens of animated nature we have ever witnessed ; *agreeable, sprightly, interesting, and manifesting much intelligence*, and we think no person would fail to see them if a correct idea could be formed respecting them from any historical account which might precede their visits.

LEWIS CASS,  
WM. H. SEWARD,  
GEO. W. JONES,  
JOHN B. WELLER,  
C. T. JAMES,  
W. BROOKE,  
J. WASHBURN, JR.,  
JOHN PETTIT,  
JAMES L. ORR,  
REUBEN ROBIE,  
ANDREW PARKER,

LINCOLN CLARK,  
JOS. SUTHERLAND,  
D. K. CARTER,  
M. M. DIMMICK,  
W. MURRAY,  
ALFRED GILMORE,  
SHEPARD CLEMENS,  
C. B. CURTIS,  
JOHN APPLETON,  
DAVID L. SEYMOUR,  
B. HENN,

JOHN JONSON,  
S. W. HARRIS,  
WILLIS ALLEN,  
THOS. BIBBIGHAUS,  
T. Y. WALSH,  
B. B. THURSTON,  
T. Z. GOODRICH,  
RICHARD YATES,  
EBON NEWTON,  
FAYETTE McMULLAN,  
and others.”

## LETTER FROM PROFESSOR OWEN.

PROFESSOR OWEN, the first comparative anatomist of the age, in his letter, addressed to the guardian of these little strangers, after returning thanks for the opportunity and facilities afforded him in his examination of them, says :

“ The remarkable difference which these children present, as compared with normal European children, with analogous stages of dentition, in thin and slender stature, and especially in the much smaller proportion of the cranial part of the head, renders them objects of peculiar interest to the physiologist and naturalist; *whilst their quick perceptive faculties, their easily-excited curiosity, the mild and intelligent expression of their full, dark eyes, their deep-olive complexion, and the singularity of some of their attitudes, combine to invest them with a character of peculiar singularity, which cannot fail to surprise and gratify all beholders.*



"Professor Owen concurs with the learned physicians of Charleston, South Carolina, whose testimonial was submitted to him by Mr. Morris, in the opinion that these children manifest no characteristics which ally them more closely than other human beings to the brute creation; they manifest, on the contrary, all the essential zoological distinctions of the human species; and their peculiarity depends, in Professor Owen's opinion, in an arrested development of the brain and brain-case, and in a minor degree of general stature.

"The learned physicians state that they do not believe these people are dwarfs.

"Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, London, June 30, 1853.

"J. M. MORRIS, ESQ."

#### EXTRACT FROM A LETTER BY WASHINGTON IRVING.

We have pleasure in laying before our readers the impressions produced upon this noted author by a visit to the Aztec children, and which, at our request, he has kindly given us in writing :

"Having been induced, by the representations of a friend in whom I have confidence, to visit the *Aztec* children, at the Society Library, I cannot refrain from giving my impressions on seeing these extraordinary specimens of the genus *man*.

"No words can describe my astonishment, at the very first glimpse I caught of these little beings of our race in "*miniature*," *pigmies* of the smallest size, yet every limb and part of the body, from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot, in the most perfect harmony and proportion. No deformity—no protuberances—no diminution of one part of the body at the expense of another, as is seen in dwarfs—no wrinkled, parchment skin—no sign of premature decay, but the whole body free from spot or blemish, and the whole figure in a most perfectly agreeable proportion."

#### NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

We have visited these little creatures, at different times, for six weeks, and can perceive that they make rapid improvement, both in understanding and in the power of speech. That they are not *dwarfs* is clear, from the perfect symmetry and conformation of parts, and the utter want of evidence that, in their physical development, the process of nature was arrested. We take no interest in *monsters*—we are not easily *humbled*; here are wonders which we can visit frequently, and feel an additional interest in on each successive occasion.—*Christian Adv. and Journal*.

We have visited them again and again, with increased wonder, curiosity, and interest. They are to be studied, and no intelligent man can look on them without novel and profound emotions. There is nothing in the least disagreeable about their appearance—they are miniature children, strange specimens of humanity; and, while other children play with them, parents look on with amazement.—*Christian Observer*.

What they are, there is no doubt; whence they came may be a mystery, but their *existence* is a subject for intense study, and no intelligent, thoughtful person should fail to visit them. They are a living wonder; symmetrical, graceful, and amiable; there is nothing in their appearance or manners to offend, and they are caressed with fondness by the ladies, and children play with them familiarly. Yet they are mere *pigmies*; *Liliputs*, indeed.—*Christian Evangelist*.

These mysterious children are calling together hundreds who are curious to see them, and still more curious to learn something of their ancient history. As an instance of the varieties to which the human race is subject, under the working of the natural law, they are well worthy of examination and study.—*Recorder*.

The head is scarcely larger than the clenched fist of a common man. The hair is black, glossy, and curly; the complexion a dark copper. One is in doubt at first whether they are human beings; but, in their sports, they manifest intelligence, and sometimes betray the passions of human nature, quarreling like every-day children.—*Independent*.



Their perfect proportions are different from dwarfs', who always exhibit some marked defect. Their tiny hands are perfectly well shaped—their heads are remarkably small—their features are peculiar, and unlike any we ever saw before, in character and expression. Strange to say, they appear to have no mode of communicating with each other by language, but have recently picked up a few expressions, such as "good-bye," and one or two others. They seem good-tempered and docile, readily obeying every direction of their exhibitors, and, also, to like the presence of spectators.—*Churchman*.

These children are simply abridgments or pocket editions of humanity—bright-eyed, delicate-featured, olive-complexioned little elves, with dark, straight, glossy hair, well-proportioned heads, and animated and pleasing countenances. That their ages are honestly given, and that the boy weighs just about as many pounds as he is years old (twenty), while the girl is about half his age, and three pounds lighter, I see no reason at all for doubting. That they are human beings there can be no doubt; and they are not freaks of nature, but specimens of a dwindled, minikin race, who almost realize in bodily form our idea of the "brownies," "bogles," and other fanciful creations of a more superstitious age.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

Shown, unannounced, into a private room where these Aztec children were playing, we came upon them rather suddenly. The surprise was mostly on our part, however. Two strange-looking little creatures jumped up from the floor, and ran to shake hands with us, then darted quickly to a washstand and seized comb and hair-brush, to give to the attendant, that they might be made presentable to strangers—and, with the entire novelty of the impression, we were completely taken aback. If we had been suddenly dropped upon another planet, and had rung at the first door we came to, we should not have expected to see beings more peculiar. There was nothing monstrous in their appearance, though they were miraculously small. But they were of an entirely new type—a kind of human being which we had never before seen—with physiognomies formed by descent through ages of thought and association of which we had no knowledge—moving, observing, and gesticulating differently from all other children—and, somehow, with an unexplainable look of authenticity and conscious priority, as if they were of the "old family" of human nature, and we were the mushrooms of to-day.—*Home Journal*.

Every renewed visit to the lecture room of the Society Library heightens the curiosity which persons in the least degree interested in ethnological science must feel while looking at these unique specimens of semi-humanity. They form an exceedingly novel and interesting object of study. We have introduced several friends to the exhibition, every one of whom has been both surprised and pleased, and not a little puzzled how to classify them. Some of their movements are childish—some almost baboonish; and yet they give undeniable evidences of intelligence and even quickness of perception; and we have thought that their introduction to so many visitors, since the exhibition was opened, has developed more fully the traits of intellectual character, and heightened the expression of their countenances. If this be so, the mystery of the whole subject is increased. We would sincerely advise readers to visit them; they form a pleasing tableau, a sight to be remembered for a lifetime; and when the discussions which will probably follow their exhibition arise, all intelligent persons will regret not having seen them.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*.

It will be exceedingly difficult for us to give our readers, by written words, an idea of the appearance of these strange beings; it would be impossible to express the emotions which their presence awakened. They are small—even below dwarfishness; but their size is their least impressive characteristic. Both are less than three feet in height, and they are pigmied by the approach of a well-grown child of two years; but they present no appearance of imperfect development from either disease or infancy. None of these unmistakable evidences of dwarfishness awaken the pity or disgust of the beholder; and yet, in spite of their human form, the question immediately arises, What are they? \* \* \* \* The reflection of a few moments entirely sets aside the surmises that these creatures are the product of a freak of nature. They are evidently specimens of a race never yet seen by modern eyes, and of which we have no record save in the



sacred writings, and in its own hieroglyphic records. In disposition they are lively and docile—the girl, however, showing the peculiar willfulness and variability which are regarded as characteristic of her sex. Both are remarkably inquisitive and restless, and pass their time in running incessantly over the room, prying into everything they see.—*New York Courier and Enquirer*.

The Aztec children are still the most remarkable attractions in the city, and are daily visited by large audiences. They are certainly the greatest curiosities of the human race ever seen in this country. The boy, about twenty years old, weighs only twenty pounds; the girl is thirteen years old, and weighs seventeen pounds. They are of a race which has but few surviving members.—*New York Journal of Commerce*.

There is a remarkable degree of interest attached to these singular beings; they are unlike anything in the human form ever seen before; they are no less a curiosity, come from what source they may—and the greatest natural curiosity existing. Nothing can be imagined more singular than their appearance, and nothing more interesting than the mental developments they exhibit. Their origin and history, as related by Mr. Morris, is highly interesting and instructive.—*Phil. Ledger*.

Along with many thousands of our fellow-citizens, we have paid several most agreeable visits to those diminutive, but perfect, specimens of humanity, the Aztec children. They are at least very great curiosities, and most wonderful representatives of the diversified family of man, and have been viewed with astonishment by all beholders. Without being dwarfs, they are certainly the smallest specimens of humanity, fully, and even beautifully developed, that have ever been seen or described, except through the imagination of Swift, who, were he consulted by a spiritual medium, would probably recognize them as the veritable offspring of some of his old friends in Lilliput. They have the senses in the ordinary perfection; they are intelligent, playful, and happy; and seem fully to understand that they are the points of attraction which bring together so many curious and admiring people. But what more can we say in regard to these little curiosities, when we say that the learned Medical Convention of Pennsylvania, before whom they were exhibited, could do no more than unanimously resolve that they were highly interesting specimens of diminutive human beings, well worthy the attention of the naturalist, the physician, and the public generally. \* \* \* \* \*—*Godey's Lady's Book*.

These children are worthy of every attention from the public. Perfect in symmetry, active, intelligent, and docile, they offer an example of decorum that might well become higher grades and conditions of civilized life. Relics of an ancestry whose existence is a marvel and a mystery, and who filled, in some respects, a noble part in the history of humanity; who can fail to look upon them with the greatest interest? They belong to a nation compared to which our European rise and origin is, as it were, of but yesterday. What vast empires have risen and fallen beneath their gaze? It is a little singular that none of our physiologists have been able to determine their age. Their lateral incisor, molar and cuspid teeth are well developed, and they are physically strong and well formed. It will be remembered that this is never the fact with dwarfs.—*Philadelphia Saturday Post*.

To the curious, and all who are fond of contemplating the wonders of nature and of art, these singular specimens of humanity present an object of the most interesting character. But they have a special claim on the attention of physiologists—the man of science, and the moralist. If any suppose that they are to be numbered among the *thousand-and-one* humbugs, and catchpenny shows, that are daily soliciting and obtaining the patronage of the public, we beg leave to assure them that they are under a great mistake. Notwithstanding the air of romance in the story that accompanies them, no one can examine them without being perfectly satisfied that they are veritable human beings—possessing not only all the corporal organs and functions belonging to the species, but the essential attributes of the human mind, exhibiting an astonishing degree of intelligence and sprightliness, without the least evidence of idiocy on the one hand, or the craft of the monkey on the other. \* \* \* \* \*  
—*N. Y. Christian Observer*.



# OUTLINE ILLUSTRATIONS, FROM RUINS OF CENTRAL AMERICA, OF ITS ANCIENT RACES.



THE above three figures, sketched from engravings in STEPHENS' "Central America," will be found, on personal comparison, to bear a remarkable and convincing resemblance, both in the general features and the position of the head, to the two living Aztec Children now exhibiting in the United States, of the ancient caste of *Kaanas*, or Pagan Mimes, from the city of Iximaya. (See the following *Memoir*, pages 30-31.)



These two figures, sketched from the same work, are said, by Senor VELASQUEZ, in the unpublished portion of his narrative, to be "irresistible likenesses" of the equally exclusive but somewhat more numerous priestly caste of *Mahaboons*, still existing in that city, and to which belonged VAALPEOR, the official guardian of those children, as mentioned in this memoir. VELASQUEZ states that the likeness of VAALPEOR to the right-hand figure in the frontispiece of STEPHENS' second volume—which is here also the one on the right hand—was as exact, in outline



as if the latter had been a daguerreotype miniature.

In the accompanying illustration, also sketched from an engraving in STEPHENS' "Central America," will be further traced the peculiar features of the little Aztecs.

The annexed concluding sketch gives the full costume of the Mahaboons, in their priestly character, and of the Aztecs in an ordinary garb. The full particulars of the discovery of these Aztec children will be found in the following pages, and will be read with much interest. The reliability of this history cannot be absolutely guaranteed, but its apparent truthfulness, fairness, and candor,



coupled with the presence of these strange little beings themselves, otherwise wholly unaccounted for, will go far towards its support. While the reader will be enabled to judge better, concerning these accounts, by a perusal of the late works published concerning Central America, he will not fail, on examination of these children, to find many curious theories of the past sustained by the striking likenesses of the children to races which have unquestionably long preceded the present inhabitants of this continent.



# THE HISTORY

## OF THE

# AZTEC LILIPUTIANS.

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CENTRAL America and Yucatan, with their massive ruins of temples, palaces, and pyramids, have, for centuries, been regions of mystery. Travelers have not surveyed them with that accuracy which has been bestowed on other parts of the earth, and, though we know something concerning them, it is a question whether that which we do not know surpasses that which is known. Mr. Stephens, in his great and remarkable work on Central America, speaks with enthusiasm of the conversations he had held with an intelligent and hospitable padre, or Catholic priest, of Santa Cruz del Quiche, formerly of the village of Chajul, and of the exciting information he had received from him, concerning immense and marvelous antiquities in the surrounding country, which, till then, had remained entirely unknown to the world. The padre told him of vast ruins, in a deserted and desolate region, but four leagues from Vera Paz, more extensive than Quiche itself; and of another ruined city, on the opposite side of the great traversing range of the Cordilleras, of which no account had been given. But the most stimulating story of all was the existence of a *living city*, far on the other side of the great sierra, large and populous, occupied by Indians of the same character, and in precisely the same state as those of the country in general, before the discovery of the continent, and the desolating conquests of its invaders.

The padre averred that, in his younger days, he had climbed to the topmost ridge of the sierra, a height of ten or twelve thousand feet, and, from its naked summit, looking over an immense plain, extending to Yucatan and the Gulf of Mexico, had seen, with distinctness, in the remote distance, "a large city, spread over a great space, with turrets white and glittering in the sun." His accounts of the prevalent Indian report was, that no white man had ever reached that city; that the inhabitants, who spoke the Maya language, aware that a race of white strangers had conquered the whole country around them, had murdered every white man who had since attempted to penetrate their territory. He added, that they had no coin or other calculating medium; no horses, mules, or domestic animals, except fowls, and "they kept the cocks under ground, to prevent their crowing being heard." The report of their slender resources for animal food, and of their



perpetual apprehension of discovery, as indicated in this inadequate and childish expedient to prevent it, is, in most respects, contradicted in the account of the following adventurous expedition, which, if it may be relied on, obtained better information of the internal economy and condition of the people than could have been acquired by any Indians holding communication with places so very remote from the territory as Quiche or Chajul.

The effects of these extraordinary averments and recitals of the padre upon the mind of Mr. Stephens, together with the deliberate conclusions which he finally drew from them, are best expressed in his own language :

“The interest awakened in us was the most thrilling I ever experienced. One look at that city was worth ten years of an everyday life. If he (the padre) is right, a place is left where Indians and a city exist, as Cortez and Alvarado found them ; there are living men who can solve the mystery that hangs over the ruined cities of America ; who can, perhaps, go to Copan, and read the inscriptions on its monuments. No subject more exciting and attractive presents itself to any mind, and the deep impression in my mind will never be effaced.

“Can it be true ? Being now in my sober senses, I do verily believe there is much ground to suppose that what the padre told us is authentic. That the region referred to does not acknowledge the government of Guatemala, and has never been explored, and that no white man has ever pretended to have entered it, I am satisfied. From other sources we heard that a large *ruined* city was visible ; and we were told of another person who had climbed to the top of the sierra, but, on account of the dense clouds rising upon it, he had not been able to see anything. At all events, the belief at the village of Chajul is general, and a curiosity is aroused that burns to be satisfied. We had a craving desire to reach the mysterious city. No man, if ever so willing to peril his life, could undertake the enterprise, with any hope of success, without hovering for one or two years on the borders of the country, studying the language and character of the adjoining Indians, and making acquaintance with some of the natives. Five hundred men could probably march directly to the city, and the invasion would be more justifiable than any made by Spaniards ; but the government is too much occupied with its own wars, and the knowledge could not be procured except at the price of blood. Two young men of good constitution, and who could afford to spend five years, might succeed. If the object of search prove a phantom, in the wild scenes of a new and unexplored country, there are other objects of interest ; but, if real, besides the glorious excitement of such a novelty, they will have something to look back upon through life. As to the dangers, they are always magnified, and, in general, peril is discovered soon enough for escape. But, in all probability, if any discovery is made, it will be made by the padres. As for ourselves to attempt it alone, ignorant of



the language, and with the *mozos*, who were a constant annoyance to us, was out of the question. The most we thought of was to climb to the top of the sierra, thence to look down upon the mysterious city ; but we had difficulties enough in the road before us ; it would add ten days to a journey already almost appalling in the prospective ; for days the sierra might be covered with clouds ; in attempting too much we might lose all. Palenque was our great point, and we determined not to be diverted from the course we had marked out."—Vol. II., p. 193-196.

"Two young men of good constitution *might succeed*," said Stephens. It is now known that two intrepid young men agreed to undertake the perilous and romantic enterprise, incited probably by this identical passage in Mr. Stephens' popular work—the one, Mr. Huertis, of Baltimore, an American of Spanish parents, from Cuba, the possessor of an ample fortune, and who had traveled in Egypt, Persia, and Syria, with the view of inspecting ancient monuments ; the other, Mr. Hammond, a civil engineer from Canada, who had been engaged for some years on surveys in the United States.

Amplly equipped with every desirable appointment, including daguerreotype apparatus, mathematical instruments, and fifty repeating rifles—the latter as precautionary in the event of an armed expedition becoming necessary—these gentlemen sailed from New Orleans, arriving at Balize, in the autumn of 1848. Here they procured horses and mules, and engaged a party of ten experienced Indians and Mestizos. After pursuing a route through a wild, broken, and heavily-wooded region, for about 150 miles, on the Gulf of Amatique, they struck off more to the southwest, for Copan, where they arrived on the morning of Christmas-day, in time to partake of the substantial enjoyments, as well as to observe the peculiar religious ceremonies of the great Catholic festival in that secluded interior city.

Whilst loitering here to procure information and guides for their future journey to Santa Cruz del Quiche, they became acquainted with Senor Pedro Velasquez, of San Salvador, who described himself as a man of family and education, although a trader in indigo. His immediate destination, prior to his return to the capital, happening to be the same city, he kindly proffered to the two Americans the advantage derivable from his superior knowledge of the country, as well as other service in the form of negotiations. He was accordingly very gladly received as their friend and companion on the way. It is from a copy of a manuscript journal of this gentleman, that the translator has obtained what purports to be the results of this exploring expedition, in the untimely fate of Messrs. Huertis and Hammond, its unfortunate originators and conductors, and the discovery of those extraordinary living specimens of a race of beings, hitherto supposed either fabulous or extinct, and which are at once its melancholy trophies and its physiological attestors. For these statements Senor Velasquez must be held responsible, as the matter only admits of incidental corroboration.



In order, however, to avoid an anticipatory trespass upon the natural sequence of the narrative, it may be proper to state, that, prior to his departure in their company from Copan, Senor Velasquez had received from his fellow-travelers no intimation whatever concerning the ulterior object of their journey, and had neither seen nor heard of those volumes describing the stupendous vestiges of ancient empire, in his native land, which had so strongly excited the emulous passion of discovery in their minds.

Frequently called by his mercantile speculations to perform long journeys from San Salvador, on the Pacific side of the Cordilleras, to Comyagua in the mid-interior, and thence to Truxillo, Omoa, and Ysabal, on the Bay and Gulf of Honduras, he had traversed a large portion of the country, and had often been surprised with sudden views of mouldering temples, pyramids, and cities of vast magnitude and marvelous mythology. As a man of unusual intelligence and scholastic acquirements, he had, doubtless, felt, as he states, a profound but hopeless curiosity concerning their origin and history. He had even seen and consecutively examined the numerous and ornate monuments of Copan; but it was not until he had proceeded to the second stage of the journey from Copan to Quiche, that he was shown the engravings in the first volume of "Stephen's Central America," in which they are so faithfully depicted. He recognized many of them as old acquaintances, others as new ones, which had escaped his more cursory inspection; in all he could trace curious details, which, on the spot, he regretted the want of time to examine. He, moreover, knew the surly Don Gregorio, by whom Mr. Stephens had been treated so inhospitably, and several other persons in the vicinity of the ruins, whom he had named, and was delighted with the *vraisemblance* of his descriptions. The signor confesses that these circumstances inspired him with unlimited confidence in that traveler's statements upon other subjects; and when Mr. Huertis read to him the further account of the information given to Mr. Stephens by the jolly and merry, but intelligent old padre of Quiche, respecting other ruined cities beyond the Sierra Madre, and especially of the living city of independent Candones, or unchristianized Indians, supposed to have been seen from the lofty summit of that mountain range, and was told by Messrs. Huertis and Hammond that the exploration of this city was the chief object of their perilous expedition, the senor adds, that his enthusiasm became enkindled to at least as high a fervor as theirs, and that, "with more precipitancy than prudence, in a man of his maturer years and important business pursuits, he resolved to unite in the enterprise, to aid the heroic young men with his experience in travel and knowledge of the wild Indians of the region referred to, and to see the end of the adventure, result as it may."

He was confirmed in this resolution by several concurring facts, of which his companions were now told for the first time. He



intimately knew, and had several times been the guest, of the worthy Cura of Quiche, from whom Mr. Stephens received assurances of the existence of the ruined city of the ancient Aztecs, as well as the living city of the Candones, in the unsubjugated territory beyond the mountains. He alleges that he was the more induced to yield credence to the padre's confident report of the latter, because his account of the former had already been verified, and become a matter of fact and of record. During the preceding summer, Senor Velasquez had himself joined a party of several foreigners and natives in exploring an ancient ruined city, of prodigious grandeur and extent, in the province of Vera Paz, but little more than 150 miles to the east of Guatemala (instead of nearly 200, as the padre had conjectured), which far surpassed in magnificence every other ruin as yet discovered, either in Central America or Mexico. It lay overgrown with huge timber in the midst of a dense forest, far remote from any settlement, and near the crater of a long-extinct volcano. On its perpendicular walls, 300 or 400 feet high, were aboriginal paintings of warlike and idolatrous processions, dances, and other ceremonies, exhibiting, like the architectural sculpture on the temples, a high state of advancement in the arts. And as he knew from personal observations that the good padre had proved veracious and accurate on this matter, the senor would not uncharitably doubt his veracity on a subject in which he again professed to speak from the evidence of his own eyesight.

The party, thus reassured, and more exhilarated than ever with the prospect of success, proceeded on their journey. It cannot be doubted that Messrs. Huertis and Hammond considered Velasquez an invaluable accession to their party, as a guide on whom they could rely, and acquainted with the dialects of many of the Indian tribes through which they would have to pass, as well as familiar with the principal stages and villages on their route, knowing both the places and persons from whence the best information, if any, concerning the paramount object of the journey, could be obtained.

The senor's journal is fragmentary throughout, and relates to few incidents of travel between the capital of Vera Paz and Santa Cruz del Quiche. Under date of February 2d, 1849, within this period of travel, he notes: "On the bank of a branch of the Salamo, attacked in the night by about thirty Indian robbers, several of whom had fire-arms. Senor Hammond, sitting within the light of the fire, was severely wounded through the left shoulder; they had followed us from the hacienda, six leagues, passed us to the north, and lay in ambush; killed four, wounded three; of the rest saw no more; poor Juan, shot through the body, died this morning; lost two mules."

The next memorandum is dated of the same month, 16th, when they had arrived at a place called San José, where Velasquez says: "Good beef and fowls; Senor Huertis much better;



Senor Hammond very low in intermittent fever ; fresh mules and good ones." On the 5th of March, at the Indian village of Axitzel, is written : "Detained here five days ; Hammond strong and headstrong. Agree with Huertis that, to be safe, we must wait with patience the return of the good Cura." On April 3d, the party arrived safely at Quiche, and were comfortably accommodated in a convent. The jovial padre, already often mentioned, who may be regarded as the unconscious suggester of the expedition, had become helplessly, if not hopelessly, dropsical, and had evidently lost much of his wonted hilarity. He declared, however, that Senor Velasquez's description of the ruins explored the previous summer, recalling, as it did, his own profoundly-impressed recollection of them, when he walked through their desolate avenues and deserted palaces ; and corroborating, as it did, in every particular, his own reiterated account of them, which he had often bestowed upon incredulous and unworthy ears, would "act like medicine to cure his malady and restore his spirits ;" and if he could but live to see the description in print, so as to silence all gainsayers, he had no doubt it would completely re-establish him, and add many years to his life. He persisted in his story of the unknown city in the Candone wilderness as seen by himself, nearly forty years ago, from the summit of the Sierra ; and promised the travelers a letter to his friend, the Cura of Gueguetenango, requesting him to procure them a guide to the very spot from whence they could behold it for themselves.

This promise, in the course of a few days, the senor says he faithfully performed, describing, from recollection, by the hand of an amanuensis, to whom he dictated, not only the more striking, but even minute and peculiar landmarks, for the guidance of the guide. On the 10th of April, the party, fully recruited in health and energy, set out for Totonicapan ; and thence we trace them by the journal, through a succession of small places to Quezaltenango, where they remained but two days ; and, again, through the places called Aguas Calientes and San Sebastiano, to Gueguetenango ; this latter portion of their route being described as one of unprecedented toil, danger, and exhaustion, from its mountainous character, accidents to men and mules, terrific weather, and loss of provisions. Arrived at the town last named, justly regarded by them as the critical stage of their destiny, they found the Cura, to whom they presented the aforesaid letter of introduction. They were somewhat discouraged on perceiving that the Cura indicated but little confidence in the accuracy of his old friend's memory, asking them, rather abruptly, if they thought him really serious in his belief in his distant vision of an unknown city from the Sierra, because, for his own part, he had always regarded the story as one of the padre's broadest jokes, and especially since he had never heard of any other person possessing equal visual powers. "The mountain was high, it was true, but not much more than half as high as the hyperbolous memory of his reverend friend



had made it; and he much feared that the padre, in the course of forty years, had so frequently repeated a picture of his early imagination, as to have, at length, cherished it as a reality." This was said in smooth and elegant Spanish, but, says the senor, "with an air of dignified sarcasm upon our credulity, which was far from being agreeable to men broken down and dispirited, by almost incredible toil, in pursuit of an object thus loftily pronounced a ridiculous phantom of the brain." From this part of Senor Valesquez's journal, we make the following quotation :

"The Cura, nevertheless, on finding that his supercilious scepticism had not proved so infectious as he expected, and that we were rather vexed than vacillating, offered to procure us guides in the course of a day or two, who were familiar with many parts of the Sierra, and who, for good pay, he doubted not, would flatter our expectations to the utmost extent we could desire. He advised us, however in the same style of caustic dissuasion, to carry a barometer and telescope, if provided with those instruments, because the latter, especially, might be found useful in discovering the unknown city, whilst the former would not only inform us of the height of the mountain, but of the weather in prospect as most favorable to a distant view. Senor Huertis replied that such precautions would be adopted; further, engaging to furnish him, on our return to Gueguetenango, with the exact latitude and longitude of the spot from which the discovery might be made. He laughed very heartily, rejoining, that he thought the operation would be much easier to furnish the same interesting particulars concerning the location of the spots at which the discovery might fail to be made: and saying this, he robed himself for mass, which we all, rather sullenly, attended.

"Next morning, two good-looking Meztitzos, brothers, waited on us with a strong letter of recommendation from the Cura, as guides to that region of the Sierra which the padre's letter had so particularly described, and which description the Cura added, he had taken much pains to make them understand. On being questioned concerning it, they startled and somewhat disconcerted us by calm assurances, in very fair Spanish, that they were not only familiar with all the landmarks, great and small, which the Cura had read to them, but had, several times, seen the very city of which we were in search, although none but full-blooded Indians had ever ventured on a journey to it. This was rather too much, even for us, sanguine and confiding as we were. We shared a common suspicion that the Cura had changed his tactics, and resolved to play a practical joke upon our credulity—to send us on a fool's errand, and laugh at us for our pains. That he had been tampering with the two guides for this purpose struck us forcibly; for while he professed never to have known any man who had seen the distant city, he recommended these Meztitzos, as brothers, whom he had known from their boyhood, who declared they had beheld it from the Sierra on various occasions. Nevertheless,



Senor Huertis believed that the young men spoke the truth, while the Cura, probably did not; and hoping to catch him in his own snare, if such had been laid, asked the guides their terms, which, though high, he agreed to without cavil. They said it would take us eight days to reach the part of the Sierra described in the letter, and that we might have to wait on the summit several days more before the weather would afford a clear view. They would be ready in two days; they had just returned across the mountains from San Antonia de Guista, and needed rest and repairs. There was a frankness and simplicity about these fine fellows which would bear the severest scrutiny, and we could only admit the bare possibility of our being mistaken.

"It took three days, however, to procure a full supply of the proper kind of provisions for a fortnight's abode in the sky, and on the fourth (May 5th), we paid our formal respects to the Cura, and started for the ascent—he not forgetting to remind us of the promise to report to him the precise geographical locality of our discovery."

Four days thereafter, the writer says: "Our altitude, by barometer, this morning, is over 6000 feet above the valley which we crossed three days ago; the view of it and its surrounding mountains, sublime with chasms, yet grotesque in outline, and all heavily gilded with the setting sun, is one of the most oppressively gorgeous I ever beheld. The guides inform us that we have but 3000 feet more to ascend, and point to the gigantic pinnacle before us, at the apparent distance of seven or eight leagues; but that, before we can reach it, we have to descend and ascend an immense barranca (ravine), nearly a thousand feet deep from our present level, and of so difficult a passage, that it will cost us several days. The side of the mountain towards the northwest is perfectly flat and perpendicular for more than half its entire height, as if the prodigious section had been riven down by the sword of San Miguel, and hurled with his foot among the struggling multitude of summits below. So far the old padre is accurate in every particular." In a note appended to this extract, the writer adds: "The average breadth of the plain on this ridge of the Sierra (that is, the ridge on which they were then encamped for the night) is nearly half a mile, and exhibits before us a fine rolling tract as far as we can see. Neither birds, beasts, nor insects—I would there were no such barranca!" He says, on May 13th: "On the brink of the abyss—the heaviest crags we can hurl down return no sound from the bottom.

From entry of May 15th, we further quote:—"Recovered the body of Sebastiano and the load of his mule; his brother is building a cross for his grave, and will not leave it until famished with thirst and hunger. All too exhausted to think of leaving this our first encampment since we descended. Present elevation but little above that of the opposite ridge, which we left on the 11th; still, at least, 3000 feet to climb." On the 19th, four o'clock, p. m., he



records: "Myself, Senor Hammond, and Antonio, on the highest summit, an inclined plain of bare rock, of about fifteen acres. The padre again right. Senor Huertes and others just discernible, but bravely coming on. Elevation, 9,500 feet. Completely in the clouds, and all the country below invisible. Senor Hammond already bleeding at the nose, and no cigar to stop it." At ten o'clock, the same night, he writes: "All comfortably asleep but myself and Senor Hammond, who is going to take the latitude." Then follows: "He finds the latitude 15 degrees 48 minutes *north*." Opposite this, in the margin, is written: "The mean result of three observations of different stars. Intend to take the longitude to-morrow." Next day, the 20th, he says: "A bright and most auspicious morning, and all but poor Antonio in fine health and feeling. The wind, by compass, N. E., and rolling away a billowy ocean of mist, toward, I suppose, the Bay of Honduras. Antonio says the Pacific will be visible within an hour (present time not given); more and more of the lower mountains becoming clear every moment. Fancy we already see the Pacific, a faint-yellow plain, almost as elevated as ourselves. Can see part of the State of Chiapas pretty distinctly." At twelve o'clock, meridian, he remarks: "Senor Hammond is taking the longitude, but finds a difference of several minutes between his excellent watch and chronometer, and fears the latter has been shaken. Both the watch and its owner, however, have been a great deal more shaken, for the chronometer has been all the time in the midst of a thick blanket, and has had no falls. Senor Huertis, with the glass, sees whole lines and groups of pyramids, in Chiapas. At one o'clock, P. M., he records: "Senor Hammond reports the longitude 92 degrees 15 minutes *west*. Brave Huertis is in ecstasy with some discovery, but will not part with the glass for a moment. No doubt it is the padre's city, for it is precisely in the direction he indicated. Antonio says he can see it with his naked eye, although less distinctly than heretofore. I can only see a white straight line, like a ledge of limestone rock, on an elevated plain, at least twenty leagues distant, in the midst of a vast amphitheatre of hills, to the northeast of our position, toward the State of Yucatan. Still, it is no doubt the place the padre saw, and it may be a great city."

A memorandum at two o'clock, P. M.: "All doubt is at an end. We have all seen it through the glass, as distinctly as though it were but a few leagues off, and it is now clear and bright to the unaided eye. It is unquestionably a richly-monumented city, of vast dimensions, within lofty parapeted walls, three or four miles square, inclined inward, in the Egyptian style; and its interior domes and turrets have an emphatically oriental aspect. I should judge it to be not more than twenty-five leagues from Ocosingo, to the eastward, and nearly in the same latitude; and this would probably be the best point from which to reach it, traveling due east, although the course of the river Legartos seems to lead direct-



ly to it. That it is still an inhabited place, we infer from the domes of its temples, or churches. Christian churches they cannot be, for such a city would have an archbishop, and be well known to the civilized world. It must be a pagan stronghold that escaped the conquest by its remote position, and the general retreat, retirement, and centralizing seclusion of its surrounding population. It may now be opened to the light of the true faith."

They commenced their descent the same day, and rested at night on the place of their previous encampment, a narrow shelf of the Sierra. Here, on the brink of a terrible ravine, which they had again to encounter, they consulted upon a plan for their future operations, and it was finally agreed that Messrs. Huertis and Hammond, with Antonio, and such of the Indian muleteers as could be induced to proceed with the expedition, should follow the bottom of the ravine, in its northeast course, in which, according to Antonio, the river Legartos took its principal supply of water, and remain at a large village, adjacent to its banks, which they had seen, about five leagues distant; while Senor Velasquez was to trace their late route, by way of Gueguetenango, to Quezaltenango, where all the surplus arms and ammunition had been deposited, and recruit a strong party of Indians, to serve as a guard, in the event of an attack from the people of the unexplored region, whither they were resolutely bound. In the mean time, Antonio was to return home to Gueguetenango, await the return of Velasquez, with his armed party from Quezaltenango, and conduct them over the mountains to the village on the plains, where Messrs. Huertis and Hammond were to remain until they should arrive. It appears that Senor Velasquez was abundantly supplied with solid funds for the recruiting service, and that Mr. Huertis also furnished Antonio with a liberal sum, in addition to his stipulated pay, wherewith to procure masses for the repose of his unfortunate brother.

On July 8th, the party had arrived with "nearly all the men he had engaged," at an Indian village called Aguamasinta, where Velasquez's anxious companions were overjoyed to receive him, and where "they had obtained inestimable information regarding the proper arrangement of the final purpose." For a few days the devious course of the Legartos was pursued. The remaining narrative of the expedition was written by Senor Velasquez from memory, after his return from San Salvador, while all the exciting events and scenes which it describes were vividly sustained by the feeling which they originally inspired. As this excessively interesting document will be translated for the public press as soon as the necessary consent of its present proprietor can be obtained, the writer of this pamphlet less regrets the very limited use of it to which he is now restricted—which is but little more than that of making a mere abridgment and connection of such incidents as may serve to explain the origin and possession of those



specimens of humanity, the Aztec Liliputians, now exhibited to the public. The following is the introductory paragraph :

“ Our latitude and longitude were now about 17 deg. north, and 90 deg. 45 min. west ; so that the grand amphitheatre of hills, forming three-fourths of an oval outline of jagged summits, a few leagues before us, most probably inclosed the mysterious object of our anxious and uncertain labors. The small groups of Indians through which we had passed, in the course of the day, had evidently been startled, by sheer astonishment, into a sort of passive and involuntary hospitality, but maintained a stark, apprehensive reserve, in most of their answers to our questions. They spoke a peculiar dialect of the Maya, which I had never heard before, and had great difficulty in comprehending, although several of the Maya Indians of our party understood it familiarly and spoke fluently. From them we learned that they had never seen men of our race before, but that a man of the same race as Senor Hammond, who was of a bright florid complexion, with light hair and red whiskers, had been sacrificed and eaten by the Macbenachs, or priests of Iximaya, the great city among the hills, about thirty moons ago. Our interpreters stated that the word ‘Iximaya’ meant the ‘Great Centre,’ and that ‘Macbenach’ meant the ‘Great Son of the Sun.’ I at once resolved to make the most of my time in learning as much as possible of this dialect from these men, because they said it was the tongue spoken by the people of Iximaya, and the surrounding region. It appeared to me to be merely a provincial corruption, or local peculiarism of the great body of the Maya language, with which I was already acquainted ; and in the course of the next day’s conversation, I found that I could acquire it with much facility.”

To this circumstance, the writer, if the account be authentic, is probably indebted for his life. Another day’s journey, and the determined explorers had come within the circuit of the alpine district in which Iximaya is situated. They found it reposing in massive grandeur, in the centre of a perfectly level plain, about five leagues in diameter, at a distance of scarcely two from the spot they had reached. At the base of all the mountains, rising upon their sides, and extending nearly a mile inward upon the plain, was a dark-green forest of heavy trees and florid shrubbery ; whilst the even valley itself exhibited large tracts of uncultivated fields, fenced in with palisades, and regular, even to monotony, both in size and form. “ Large herds of deer, cattle, and horses, were seen in the openings of the forests, and dispersed over the plain, which was also studded with low, flat-roofed dwellings of stone, in small detached clusters, or hamlets. Rich patches of forest, of irregular forms, bordered with gigantic aloes, diversified the landscape, in effective contrast with bright lakes of water, which glowed among them.”

While the whole party, with their cavalcade of mules and baggage, were gazing upon the scene, two horsemen, in bright blue



and yellow tunics, and wearing turbans, decorated with three large plumes of the squezal, dashed by them from the forest, at a distance of about two hundred yards, on steeds of the highest Spanish mould, followed by a long retinue of athletic Indians, equally well mounted, clothed in brilliant red tunics, with coronals of gay feathers, closely arranged within a band of blue cloth. Each horseman carried a long spear, pointed with polished metal, and each held, in a leash, a brace of powerful bloodhounds, which were also of the purest Spanish breed. The two leaders of this troop, who were Indians of commanding air and stature, suddenly wheeled their horses, and glared upon the large party of intruders with fixed amazement. Their followers evinced equal surprise, but forgot not to draw up in good military array, while the bloodhounds leaped and raged in their thongs.

"While the leaders," says Senor Velasquez, "seemed to be intently scrutinizing every individual of our company, as if silently debating the policy of an immediate attack, one of the Maya Indians, of whom I had been learning the dialect, stepped forward and informed us that they were a detachment of rural guards, a very numerous military force, which had been appointed from time immemorial, or, at least, from the time of the Spanish invasion, to hunt down and capture all strangers of a foreign race that should be found within a circle of twelve leagues of the city; and he repeated the statement made to us from the beginning, that no white man had hitherto eluded their vigilance, or left their city alive. He said there was a tradition that many of the pioneers of Alvarado's army had been cut off in this manner, and never heard of more, while their skulls and weapons are to this day suspended around the altar of the pagan gods. He added, finally, that if we wished to escape the same fate, now was our only chance; that, as we numbered thirty-five, all armed with repeating rifles, we could easily destroy the present detachment, which amounted to but fifty, and secure our retreat before another could come up; but that, in order to do this, it was necessary first to shoot the dogs, which all our Indians regarded with the utmost dread and horror.

"I instantly felt the force of this advice, in which also I was sustained by Senor Hammond; but Senor Huertis, whom, as the leader of the expedition, we were all bound and solemnly pledged to obey, utterly rejected the proposition. He had come so far to see the city, and see it he would, whether taken thither as a captive or not, and whether he ever returned from it or not; that this was the contract originally proposed, and to which I had assented; that the fine troop before us was evidently not a gang of savages, but a body of civilized men and good soldiers; and as to the dogs, they were noble animals of the highest blood he ever saw. If, however, I and his friend Hammond, who seemed afraid of being eaten, in preference to the fine beef and venison which he had seen in such profusion on the plain, really felt alarmed at the bugbear legends of our vagabond Indians, before any demonstration



of hostility had been made, we were welcome to take two-thirds of the men and mules and make our retreat as best we could, while he would advance with Antonio and the remainder of the party to the gates of the city, and demand a peaceable admission. I could not but admire the romantic intrepidity of this resolve, though I doubted its discretion, and assured him I was ready to follow his example and share his fate.

“While this conversation was passing among us, the Indian commanders held a conference, apparently as grave and important. But just as Senor Huertis and myself had agreed to advance towards them for a parley, they separated without deigning a reply to our salutation—the elder and more highly-decorated galloped off towards the city with a small escort, while the other briskly crossed our front at the head of his squadron, and entered the forest nearer the entrance of the valley. This opening in the hills was scarcely a quarter of a mile wide, and but a few minutes elapsed before we saw a single horseman cross it toward the wood on the opposite side. Presently another troop of horse, of the same uniform appearance as the first, were seen passing a glade of the wood which the single horseman had penetrated, and it thus became evident that a manœuvre had already been effected to cut off our retreat. The mountains surrounding the whole area of the plain were absolutely perpendicular for three-fourths of their altitude, which was nowhere less than a thousand feet; and from many parts of their wildly-piled outline, huge crags projected in monstrous mammoth forms, as if to plunge to the billows of forest beneath. At no point of this vast, impassable, boundary was there a chasm or declivity discernible, by which we could make our exit, except the one thus formidably intercepted.

“To retire into the forest and water our mules at a copious stream which rushed forth from its recesses, and recruit our own exhausted strength with food and rest, was our first necessary resource. In tracing the rocky course of the current, for a convenient watering-place, Antonio discovered that it issued from a cavern, which, though a mere fissure exteriorly, was, within, of cathedral dimensions and solemnity. We all entered it and drank eagerly from a foaming basin, which it immediately presented to our fevered lips. Our first sensations were those of freedom and independence, and of that perfect security which is the basis of both. It was long since we had slept under a roof of any kind, while here a few men could defend our repose against an assault from thousands; but it was horribly evident to my mind that a few watchful assailants would suffice to reduce us to starvation, or destroy us in detail. Our security was that of a prison, and our freedom was limited to its walls. Happily, however, for the present hour, this reflection seemed to trouble no one. Objects of wonder and veneration grew numerous to our gaze. Gigantic statues of ancient warriors, with round shields, arched helmets, and square breast-plates, curiously latticed and adorned, stood



sculptured in high relief, with grave faces and massive limbs, and in the regular order of columns round the walls of this grand mausoleum. Many of them stood arrayed in the crimson of the setting sun, which then flamed through the tall fissure into the cavern; and the deep gloom into which long rows of others utterly retired from our view, presented a scene at once of mingled mystery and splendor. It was evidently a place of great and recent resort, both for men and horses, for plentiful supplies of fresh fodder for the latter were heaped in stone recesses, while the ashes of numerous fires, mingled with discarded moccasins and broken pipes and pottery, attested a domiciliary occupation by the former. Further into the interior were found seats and sleeping couches of fine cane work; and in a spacious recess, near the entrance, a large collection of the bones both of the ox and the deer, with hides also of both, but newly flayed and suspended on pegs by the horns. These last evidences of good living had more effect upon our hungry Indians than all the rest, and within an hour after dark, while we were seeking our first sleep, four fine deer were brought in by about a dozen of our party, whom we supposed to have been faithfully guarding our citadel. It is unnecessary to say that we gladly arose to the rich repast that ensued, for we had eaten nothing but our scanty allowance of tortillas for many days, and were in the lassitude of famine."

In the morning about the break of day, the infernal yells of a pack of bloodhounds suddenly rang through the cavern, and the party could scarcely seize their rifles before many of the dogs, who had driven in the affrighted Indians on guard, were springing at their throats. Mr. Huertis, however, the American leader of the expedition, with that presence of mind which seems always to have distinguished him, told the men that rifles were useless in such a contest, and that the hounds must be dispatched with their long knives as fast as they came in, while the fire-arms were to be reserved for their masters. This canine butchery was accomplished with but little difficulty, none of the party received any serious injury from their fangs; and the Indians were exhilarated with a victory which was chiefly a conquest of their fears. These unfortunate dogs, it appears, were the advanced guard of a pack, or perhaps merely a few unleashed as scouts, to others held in reserve, for no more were seen or heard for some time. Meanwhile, Mr. Huertis seems to have struck out a brilliant scheme. He collected his whole party into that obscure branch of the cavern near its entrance which has been described as a depository of animal bones, and ordering them to sling their rifles at their backs, bade them stand ready with their knives. Almost instantly they observed a party of ten dismounted natives, in scarlet tunics, and armed with spears, enter the cavern in single file; and, it would seem, from seeing the dogs slain, and no enemy in sight, they rushed out again, without venturing on further search. In a few



minutes, however, they returned with forty or fifty more, in the same uniform, headed by the younger of the two personages whom they had seen in command the previous evening. As soon as they were well advanced into the cavern, and heard disturbing the tired mules, Mr. Huertis and his party marched quietly out and seized their horses, which were picketed close by, in charge of two or three men, whom they disarmed. At a short distance, however, drawn up in good order, was another squadron of horses, which Mr. Huertis determined instantly to charge. Ordering his whole party to mount the noble animals they had captured, and reserve their fire until he gave the word, he, Velasquez, and Hammond, drew the short sabres they had worn on their march, and led the attack. The uniformed natives, however, did not wait the encounter, but scattered in wonderment and consternation; doubtless under the impression that all their comrades had been slain. But the rapid approach of a much larger force, which was found, eventually, to have consisted of two detachments of fifty each, being just twice their number, speedily reassured them, and falling in line with this powerful reinforcement, the whole hundred and fifty charged upon our comparative handful of travelers, at a rapid pace. Huertis promptly ordered his little party to halt, and form in line, two deep, with presented arms; and doubtless feeling that, notwithstanding the disparity of numbers, the enemy, armed only with spears and small side hatchets, held but a slender chance of victory over a party of thirty-eight—most of them old campaigners in the sanguinary expeditions of the terrible Carrera—armed with new “six-shooting” rifles and long knives, generously commanded them to keep aim upon the horses only, until further orders. In the mean time, most of their plumed opponents, instead of using their long spears as in lance practice, threw them through the air from so great a distance that nearly all fell short of the mark—an infallible indication both of timidity and inexperience in action. The unfortunate Mr. Hammond, however, was pierced through the right breast, and another of the party was killed by being transfixated through the abdomen. At this instant, Huertis gave the word to fire; and, at the next, no small number of the enemy were rolling upon the sod, amid their plunging horses. A second rapid but well-delivered volley brought down as many more, when the rest, in attitudes of frantic wonder and terror, unconsciously dropped their weapons, and fled like affrighted fowls under the sudden swoop of the kite. Their dispersion was so outrageously wild and complete, that no two of them could be seen together as they radiated over the plain. The men and horses seemed impelled alike by a preternatural panic; and neither Cortez in Mexico, nor Pizarro in Peru, ever witnessed greater consternation at fire-arms—among a people who, for the first time, beheld their phenomena and effects when mere hundreds of invaders easily subjugated millions of natives, chiefly by this appalling influence—than was manifested



by these Iximayans on this occasion. Indeed, it appears that these primitive and isolated people, holding no intercourse whatever with the rest of mankind, were as ignorant as their ancestors, even of the existence of this kind of weapon; and although their modern hieroglyphical annals were found to contain vague allusions to the use of them in the conquest of the surrounding country, by means of a peculiar kind of thunder and lightning, and several old Spanish muskets and pistols were found in their scant collection of foreign curiosities, yet not even the most learned of their priests had retained the slightest notion of the uses for which they were designed.

While this summary conflict was enacted on the open lawn of the forest, the dismounted company in the cavern having completed their fruitless search for the fugitives, emerged from its portal with all the mules and baggage, just in time to see and hear the fiery explosions of the rifles and their effect upon the whole body of scarlet cavalry. The entire scene, including the mounted possession of their horses by uncouthly-attired strangers, previously invisible, must have appeared to these terror-stricken natives an achievement of supernatural beings. And when Mr. Huertis wheeled his obstreperously-laughing party to recover his mules, he found most of the astounded men prostrate upon their faces, while others, more self-possessed, knelt upon the bended knee, and, with drooping heads, crossed their hands behind them to receive the bonds of captives. Their gallant and gaily-accounted young chieftain, however, though equally astonished and dismayed, merely surrendered his javelin as an officer would his sword, under the like circumstances, in civilized warfare. But, with admirable tact and forethought, Huertis declined to accept it, immediately returning it with the most profound and deferential cordiality of manner. He at the same time informed him, through Velasquez, that, though strangers, his party were not enemies, but friendly visitors, who, after a long and painful journey, again to be pursued, desired the temporary hospitality of his countrymen in their magnificent city.

The young chief replied, with evident discomposure and concern, that his countrymen showed no hospitality to strangers; that the inhabitants of their city held intercourse only with the population of the surrounding valley, who were restricted alike by law and by patriotism from ever leaving its confines; he and his fellow soldiers alone being privileged to visit the neighboring regions for the purpose of arresting intruders (*cowana*), and escorting certain kind of merchandise which they exchanged with a people of their own race in an adjoining district. He added, with much eloquence of manner, and, as Velasquez believed, of language, which he but partially understood, that the independence and peace of his nation, who were a peaceful and happy people, depended upon these severe restrictions, which indeed had been the only means of its preservation.



He further added, says Velasquez, that some few strangers, it was true, had been taken to the city by its guards in the course of many generations, but that none of them had been allowed an opportunity of betraying its existence and locality to the cruel rapacity of the foreign race.

Mr. Huertis rejoined that he could destroy any number of armed men, on the swiftest horses, before they could approach him, as the chief had already seen ; and, since he could enforce his exit from the city whenever he thought proper, he would enter it upon his own terms, either as a conqueror, or as a friend, according to the reception he met with. Without waiting for further colloquy, he ordered his party to dismount, restore their horses to their owners, and march with the train of mules toward the city, in the usual style of travel. With this order, his Indians complied very reluctantly, but on assuring them that it was a matter of the highest policy, they evinced their wonted confidence in his judgment and ability. To the young chief he returned his richly-caparisoned steed, which had fallen to the lot of the unfortunate Mr. Hammond, who was now lying desperately wounded in the care of the faithful Antonio. For himself and Senor Velasquez, Mr. Huertis retained the horses they had first seized, and placing themselves on each side of the Iximayan commander, with their friend Hammond borne immediately behind them, in one of the cane couches of the cavern, on the backs of two mules yoked together, they advanced to the head of their party while the red troopers, followed by the surviving bloodhounds leashed in couples, brought up the rear. Huertis, however, had taken the precaution to add the spears and hatchets of these men to the burthens of the forward mules, to abide the event of his reception at the city gates. The appearance of the whole cavalcade was unique and picturesque ; for whilst Velasquez wore the uniform of a military company to which he belonged in San Salvador, much enhanced in effect by some brilliant additions, and crowned with a broad sombrero and plume, Huertis wore that of an American naval commander, with gold epaulettes ; his riflemen and muleteers generally were clothed in blue cotton and grass hats, while the native cavalry, in the brilliant tunics and feathered coronals, already described, must have completed the diversity of the variegated *cortége*. Had poor Hammond been mounted among them, his costume would have been as equivocal as his new complexion, for he had attired himself in the scarlet coat of a British officer of rank, with several blazing stars of glass jewels, surmounted by a white Panama hat, in which clustered an airy profusion of ladies' ostrich feathers, dyed blue at the edges.

In passing the spot of the recent skirmish, they found that nine horses and two men had been killed, the latter unintentionally, besides the riflemen of their own party. Many other horses were lying wounded, in the struggles of death, and several of their riders were seated on the ground, disabled by bruises or disloca-



tions. Huertis's men buried their comrade in a grave hastily dug with the spears which lay around him, while the Iximayans laid their dead and wounded upon horses, to be conveyed to a village on the plain. The former, it was found, were consumed there the next day, in funeral fires, with idolatrous rites; and it was observed by the travelers that the native soldiers regretted their dead with emotions of extreme sensibility, and almost feminine grief, like men wholly unaccustomed to scenes of violent death. But the strongest emotion evinced by the young chief throughout their intercourse, was when he heard the word "Iximaya," in interpreting for Huertis. He then seemed to be smitten and subdued by blank despair, as if he felt that the city and its location were already familiarly known to the foreign world.

As already stated, the distance to the city was about six miles. The expedition found the road to it bordered, on either side, as far as the eye could reach, with a profuse vegetation, a portion the result of assiduous and skillful culture. Indigo, corn, oats, a curious five-eared wheat, gourds, pineapples, esculent roots, pulse, flax, and hemp, the white as well as the crimson cotton, vineyards, and fruit orchards, grew luxuriantly in large regularly-divided fields, which were now ripe for the harvest. The villages, large and populous, were mostly composed of flat-roofed dwellings, with broad overhanging eaves or architraves, supported by heavy columns, often filleted over spiral flutings, in the Egyptian style. A profusion of bold sculpture was the prevailing characteristic, and perhaps defect of all. The inhabitants, who thronged the wayside in great numbers, appeared excited with surprise and exultation, on beholding the large company of strangers apparently in the custody of their military; while the disarmed condition of the latter, and the bodies of the slain, were a mystery they could not explain. Many of the husbandmen were observed to be in possession of bows and arrows, and some of the women held rusty spears. The predominant costume of both sexes was a pale-blue tunic, gathered in at the breast and descending to the knee, with reticulated buskins, of red cord, covering the calf of the leg. The women, with few exceptions, were of fine form, and the highest order of Indian beauty, with an extraordinary affluence of black hair, tastefully disposed. At the village where the dead and wounded were left, with their relatives and friends, doleful lamentations were heard, to the time the expedition entered the city.

The walls of this metropolis were forty feet high, sloping inward from the foundation, surmounted by a parapet which overhung in a concave curve and rested upon a plain moulding. They were evidently a massive work of a remote period, for although constructed of large blocks of granite stone, white and glittering in the sun, passing ages had corroded rough crevices between the layers, and the once perfect cornices had become indented by the tooth of time. The sculptured annals of the city gave them



an antiquity of four thousand years. They formed a parallelogram four miles long and three in width, thus inclosing an area of nearly twelve square miles, and breasted the cardinal points of the horizon with a single gate, midway on every side. On approaching the eastern gate, the travelers discovered that the foundations of the walls were laid in a deep fosse, or moat, a hundred feet wide, nearly full to its brink, and abounding with water-fowl. It was replenished from the mountains, and discharged its surplus waters into the lakes of the valley. It was to be crossed by a drawbridge, now raised over the gate, and the parapet was thronged with the populace to behold the entrance of so large a number of strangers, *for whom there was no return.*

At a signal from the young chief, the bridge slowly descended, and the cavalcade passed over; but the folding gates, which were composed of blocks of stone curiously dove-tailed together, and which revolved upon hinges of the same material by a ball-and-socket contrivance above and below, were not yet opened, and the party were detained on the bridge. A small oval orifice only appeared, less than a human face, and an ear was applied there to receive an expected word in a whisper. This complied with, the ponderous gates unfolded, and a vista of solemn magnificence was presented to the view. It was a vista, at once, of massive statues and trees, extending; apparently, the whole length of the city. No two of the statues were precisely alike in countenance, and very few in their sculptural costume. There was some distinctive emblem upon each. They stood sixty feet apart, with a smaller monument of some mythological animal between each. A similar but shorter avenue, it appears, crossed the city from north to south, having a proportional number of such monuments through its entire extent; and these two grand avenues ran through wide areas of greensward richly grouped with lofty trees.

As the cavalcade advanced to the centre of the city, the population assembled to behold the unprecedented spectacle; but the utmost order prevailed, and the silence was profound. The fact of these strangers wielding deadly weapons had already excited their dread. Arrived at the quadrated point, where the two great avenues intersected, Mr. Huertis boldly demanded of his guide the further course and character of his destination. He was answered by his dignified companion, that he would be conducted to the building immediately before him, one of majestic dimensions and style, where the monarch of the nation daily assembled with his councilors, at the hour of noon, to administer justice and listen to complaints. In the mean time, his wounded friend could be placed in a state of greater ease and repose in one of the apartments of the edifice, while the mules and baggage could be disposed of in its basement vaults. When this was accomplished, the hour of audience had arrived.

The entire party of strangers, with the young chief and several of his subordinates, were then led into a large and lofty hall, sur-



rounded by columns, and displaying three raised seats covered with canopies of drapery. On the one of these which stood at the eastern end sat the monarch, a personage of grave but benignant aspect, about sixty years of age, arrayed in scarlet and gold, and having a golden image of the rising sun, of extraordinary splendor, displayed from behind his throne. On the seat on the southern and western side sat venerable men of advanced age, scarcely less gorgeously attired. Around the apartment, and on the steps of the throne, were other grave-looking men, in scarlet robes. Huer-tis, Velasquez, and their Indians, still carrying their loaded rifles, of which he had not suffered them to be deprived, stood on the left side of the monarch, the young chief and his soldiers on the right. The latter gave his statement apparently with truth and manly candor, the facts which he averred seeming to fill the whole council with amazement, and to leave settled gloom upon the imperial brow. The decision given, which was concurred in by the associate councilors, appeared to be that the strangers, having magnanimously released and restored the company of guards, after they had surrendered themselves prisoners, and having voluntarily entered the city in a peaceable manner, when they might possibly have effected their escape, were entitled to their personal freedom, and might eventually, under certain obligations, become eligible to all the privileges of citizenship within the limits of the city. Meanwhile they were to make no use of their dangerous weapons, nor exhibit them to terrify the people. With this decision, Huer-tis and his companions were perfectly satisfied, for the latter had undiminished confidence in his ability, and determined to achieve their escape. On leaving the hall of justice, they observed the elder military chief, of whom a slight mention has been made, brought in with two others of inferior rank ; and it was afterwards currently reported that they had been sentenced to close imprisonment. It was also ascertained by Velasquez, that the four companies of rangers, already noticed, composing a regiment of two hundred men, constituted the whole military force of this timid and peaceful people.

The place of residence assigned to our travelers was the vacant wing of a spacious and sumptuous structure, at the western extremity of the city, which had been appropriated, from time immemorial, to the surviving remnant of an ancient and singular order of priesthood called Kaanas, which, it was distinctly asserted in their annals and traditions, had accompanied the first migration of this people from the Assyrian plains. Their peculiar and strongly-distinctive lineaments, it is now perfectly well ascertained, are to be traced in many of the sculptured monuments of the Central American ruins, and were found still more abundantly on those of Iximaya. Forbidden, by inviolably sacred laws, from intermarrying with any persons but those of their own caste, they had here dwindled down, in the course of many centuries, to a few insignificant individuals, diminutive in



stature. They were, nevertheless, held in high veneration and affection by the whole Iximayan community, probably as living specimens of an antique race nearly extinct. Their position as an order of priesthood, it is now known, had not been higher for many ages, if ever, than that of religious mimes and bacchanals, in a certain class of pagan ceremonies, highly popular with the multitude. This, indeed, is evident from their characteristics in the sculptures. Their ancient college, or hospital, otherwise vacant and forlorn, was now chiefly occupied by a much higher order of priests, called Mayaboons, who were their legal and sacerdotal guardians. With a Yachin, one of the junior brethren of this order, named Vaalpeor, a young man of superior intellect and attainments, Velasquez soon cultivated a friendly and confidential acquaintance, which proved reciprocal and faithful. And while Huertis was devoting all his time and energies to inquiry respecting this unknown city and people, the ear of this young pagan priest was as eagerly imbibing, from the lips of Velasquez, a similar knowledge of the world at large, to him equally new and enchanting. If Huertis had toiled so severely, and hazarded so much, both as to himself and companions, to acquire a knowledge of this one city and people, it soon became clear to the penetrating mind of Velasquez, that Vaalpeor possessed enough both of mental ambition and personal energy to incur equal toil and risk to learn the wonders of the cities and races of the greater nations of mankind. Indeed, this desire evidently glowed in his breast with a consuming fever; and when Velasquez, after due observation, proposed the liberation of the whole expedition, with Vaalpeor himself as its protected companion, the now consciously imprisoned pagan, horror-stricken at first, regarded the proposition complacently, and, finally, with a degree of delight, regardless of consequences. It was, however, mutually agreed that the design should be kept secret from Huertis, until ripe for success. A serious obstacle existed in his plighted guardianship of the Kaana children, whom he could abandon only with his life; but even this was not deemed insurmountable.

In the mean time, Huertis, to facilitate his own objects, had prevailed upon his entire party to conform in dress and habits with the community in which they lived. The city was surrounded on all sides by a lofty colonnade, sustaining the upper esplanade of the city walls, and forming a broad, covered walk beneath, in which the population could promenade, sheltered from sun and shower. In these places of general resort, the new citizens appeared daily, until they had become familiarly known to the greater part of the many thousand inhabitants of the city. Huertis, moreover, had formed domestic and social connections; was the welcome guest of families of the highest rank, who were fascinated with the information he afforded them of the external world; had made tacit converts to liberty of many influential persons; had visited each of the four grand temples which stood



in the centre of the several quadrangular divisions of the city, and externally conformed to their idolatrous worship. He had even been admitted into some of the most sacred mysteries of these temples, while Velasquez, more retired, and avowedly more scrupulous, was content to receive the knowledge thus acquired, in long conversations by the sick couch of poor Hammond, now rapidly declining to the grave.

Mr. Hammond's dreadful wound had but partially healed in the course of several months; his constitution was exhausted, and he was dying of remittent fever and debility. His chief regret was that he could not assist his friend Huertis in his researches and drawings, and determine the place of the city by astronomical observations, which his friends were unable to take. The day before he died, he was visited by some of the medical priesthood, who, on seeing numerous light spots upon his skin, where the preparation with which he had stained it had disappeared, they pronounced him *a leper*, and ordered that all intercourse with the building should be suspended. No explanation would convince them to the contrary, and his death confirmed them in their opinion. Availing himself of this opportunity, and under the plea that it was important to their safety, Vaalpeor removed the two orphan children in his charge to one of the country temples in the plain, and the idle mules of the strangers were employed to carry tents, couches, and other bulky requisites for an unprovided rural residence. It may be added, that he included among them much of the baggage of his new friends, with the greater part of their rifles and ammunition. In the mean time, Huertis, Velasquez, and about half of their party were closely confined to the part of the edifice assigned for their occupation. Their friend Hammond had been interred without the walls, in a field appropriated to lepers by the civic authorities. Huertis was now informed of the plan of escape, but was not ready; he had more drawings to make, and many curiosities to collect. The interdicted period of nine days having expired, the young priest, who had free access to the city at all times, again appeared at their abode, and urged an early retreat, as the return of the orphan children would soon be required. But Huertis was abroad in the city, and could not be consulted. He remained absent all the day, and did not return to his apartments at night. It was so all the next day and night, and Velasquez was deeply alarmed. On searching his rooms for his papers, drawings and instruments, for secret transmittal into the country, he found them all removed, including those of Mr. Hammond, which were among them. It was then vainly hoped that he had effected his escape with all his treasures, but his Indians knew nothing of the matter.

Shortly after this discovery, Vaalpeor arrived with this explanation. Huertis had made a confidant of his intended flight, whom he idly hoped would accompany it, and she betrayed him. His offense, under his voluntary vows, and his initiation in the



sacred mysteries, was unpardonable, and his fate could not be doubted. Indeed, the trembling priest at length admitted that he had been sacrificed in due form upon the high altar of the sun, and that he himself had beheld the fatal ceremony. Huertis, however, had implicated none of his associates, and there was yet a chance of escape. To pass the gates was impossible; but the wall might be descended in the night by ropes, and to swim the moat was easy. This was effected by Velasquez and fifteen of his party the same night; the rest either did not make the attempt or failed, and the faithful Antonio was among them. The fugitives had scarcely reached the secluded retreat of Vaalpeor and mounted their mules, before the low yelp of bloodhounds was heard upon their trail, and soon burst into full cry. But the dogs were somewhat confused by the scent of so many footsteps on the spot at which the party mounted, and did not follow the mules until the horsemen led the way. This afforded time for the fugitives, racing their swift mules at full speed, to reach the opening of the valley, when Velasquez wheeled and halted, for the pursuers were close at hand. A conflict ensued, in which many of the horsemen were slain, and the young kaana received an accidental wound, of which he retains the scar. It must suffice to say, that the party eventually secured their retreat without loss of life; and by break of day they were on a mountainous ridge many leagues from Iximaya. In about fourteen days, they reached Ocosingo, after great suffering. Here Velasquez reluctantly parted with most of his faithful Indians, and here also died Vaalpeor, from the unaccustomed toil and deprivations of the journey. Velasquez, with the two Aztec Children, did not reach San Salvador until the middle of February, when they became objects of the highest interest to the most intellectual classes of that city. As the greatest ethnological curiosities in living form that ever appeared among civilized men, he was advised to send them to Europe for exhibition.

Such is the marvelous story detailed by Velasquez. Containing all the elements which can well stimulate curiosity, it also lays claim to a credence which further inquiry must either substantiate or withdraw. The Aztec Children stand independently as the most wonderful members of the human race, whatever their origin and descent; yet, at the same time, all testimony professing to throw light on this is worthy of calm and considerate attention. To view these children is less to inquire whence they came, than to regard them as they are; to watch the progressive dawn of intelligence, and continually stronger development of individual characteristics. To see them is an event in the life of the beholder, which will never be forgotten. Were they deformities, without proper lineage or name, excrescences, or mere freaks of nature, their history would little merit the inquiry or examination now courted. They are here—the descendants of a people who probably passed over to the American continent at a period too re-



mote to be ascertained, members of a race kept preserved in rocky fastnesses, and now discovered on the eve of physical decline and disappearance. The learned world—those interested in philosophical pursuits, and the countless crowd who would find entertaining and rational amusement, have the opportunity of witnessing what will afford material for information, reflection, and enjoyment; for, while a thousand new inventions, of a startling character, are annually brought before the public mind, and not only their existence admitted, but their practical utility demonstrated, and in an age when, with all its enlightenment, the credulity of mankind stretches even beyond the boundary of the material world, and seeks to make itself familiar with the unfathomable nature of spiritual existences, a phenomenon in ethnology, combining all the fact of the former with the singularity of the latter, must prove of intense and startling interest.

The discovery of the new world has been followed by a series of revelations in natural history, which have increased the earth's volume of wonders to a vast extent. The geographical features of the two Americas furnish a panorama of pictures which, for beauty and magnificence, is without parallel.

From where the silver sea of Lake Superior opens its broad mirror of bright waters in a dark northern forest hard by the regions of snow, to where the mighty Mississippi creeps on from a shining thread or skein of water, until, in three thousand miles' journey, it swells the Gulf of Mexico, both continents, on to where the Amazon leaps from the Andes and sweeps through the equatorial valley four thousand miles to the sea, all is full of the most romantic interest.

That description which, elsewhere, would be mere grandiloquence and hyperbole, in this region runs no fear of being exaggerated into an overdrawn or widely-stretched picture. Within the tropics of this western world, the lands are rich in vestiges of a civilization which bears a parallel of comparison with the classic grounds of Memphis, Thebes, Baalbec, and Nineveh; and could each monument, which now stands a moss-covered sphinx, be read through its hieroglyphics, we should have, doubtless, a history of empire as varied and remarkable as that which has made Greece and Rome the Mecca of all pilgrims of antiquarian lore. But, alas! no patient inquirer has found a Rosetta Stone as a key to unlock their mysteries, and more sad than all are the ruthless acts by which blind and bigoted fanaticism has annihilated the written record and fractured history of mighty and wonderful nations, the evidence of whose greatness still exists in the marble monuments and wrecks of great cities, which even the iron hand of Time has not been able to obliterate. But the outrage of the Caliph Omar, who fired the Alexandrian library, or the Goths, Vandals, and Huns, who sacked, pillaged, and overran Rome, is palliated by the fact that their barbarity could not destroy *all* the historic lore and treasures of art in the realms which they devastated.



But what shall be said of those who, professing to follow the precepts of our holy Christian religion, madly fell to work to exterminate not only the race of men who filled the western world, but forever sealed in oblivion the unoffending archives of their history? How must every scholar and liberal mind detest the deplorable madness which urged the insane zealot *Zumarraga* to gather the thousand glorious volumes and endless scrolls of illuminated maps which contained every portion of Aztec history, and make of them one huge funeral pyre, in the great square of Mexico, by the temple of *Mexitli*, as an offering to the blind spirit of superstition.

What shall we say of the destruction of the MSS. in 830 pages, gathered by that glorious, liberal-hearted Christian priest, *Bartolomé Las Casas* (first bishop of *Chiapas*), which *Ramesal* put in the library of the Dominicans at *Valladolid*; and also "A General History of America," in three volumes, folio, in the library of the Count *Villambrosa*, in *Madrid*, where *Sinelo* saw it, as he affirms in his "*Bibliotheca Occidentali*," together with two volumes which he saw in the celebrated archives of *Simaneas*, which have been the sepulchre of so many precious manuscripts on America.

Or what can ever compensate for the injustice done to that elegant scholar, *Lorenzo Loturini Bennæducci*, of *Milan*, whose eight years of industry and diligent research gave him numerous select and invaluable MSS. of the Aztecs; and whose museum of curiosities was only equaled by that of the learned *Carlos de Sigüenza y Gongora*, and who, like him, through the excessive jealousy of the Spanish government, was stripped of all his literary estate, and sent to Spain, upon some pseudo religious charge, of which he was acquitted; but, sad to say, the force of fanaticism had swallowed up all his labors in his absence, and his mass of MSS. was gone forever. Such a gap made in these national records caused the skeptical *Abbé Raynal* to say, afterwards: "Nothing are we permitted to affirm, except that the Mexican empire was governed by *Montezuma*, at the time that the Spaniards landed on the Mexican coast"—to which the celebrated native Mexican priest, *Abbe de Francesco Saverio Clavigero* well replies, "Why not doubt the existence of *Montezuma*?" If we are permitted to affirm this as ascertained by the testimony of the Spaniards who saw that king, we feel the attestation of the same Spaniards to a vast many other things belonging to the ancient history of Mexico, which were seen by them and confirmed by the depositions of the Indians themselves. Such particulars, therefore, may be affirmed as positively as the existence of *Montezuma*, or ought we also to entertain a doubt of *that*? If there is reason, however, to doubt all the ancient history of Mexico, the antiquity of most other nations would come in question, for it is not easy to find another nation, the events of which have been confirmed by a greater number of historians than those of the Mexicans, nor do we know that any people ever published so severe a law against false historians as that of the *Acolhuas*.



While in the silence of history it becomes impossible to positively know certain facts, there is little merit, on the other hand, in raising mere doubts by skepticism. For example, we have seen the mere whim urged, that there was no such person as Julius Cæsar or William Shakespeare. But the person desirous of investigating and ascertaining the truth in such matters must pass these silly equivocations with contempt. Are we to discredit the existence of a race, in the full tide of their prosperity as lately as the year 1521, and account them merely traditionary or chimerical because the roots of giant trees are growing upon the tops of their palaces, and their gorgeous temples buried in the leafy shadows of almost impenetrable forests? Not at all. Copan, Palenque, Uxmal and Tula, are as well, if not better, defined and authenticated than Gizeh's immortal Pyramid of Cheops, or the subterranean labyrinths of the Catacombs. The explorations of Champollion, Layard, and Bayard Taylor, upon the borders of the Nile, and among the mighty wrecks which strew the sites of ancient Babylon and Nineveh, are not more strangely interesting than the marvelous cities and giant works of architecture so recently visited by John L. Stephens, Brantz Meyer, Mr. Norman, and Mr. Squiers, and so beautifully illustrated in the great work of Lord Kingsborough, and described with such romantic interest by Prescott, the American historian.

Without entering into any hypothesis or speculation touching the identity of Central American monuments and their hieroglyphics, with those of Egypt or the oriental world; or, adopting the conjecture of Dr. Siguenza, that St. Thomas the Apostle was identical with the famous Aztec divinity, Quetzalcoatl (about whose head the sun breathed a perpetual halo, and wherever he traveled preaching the true gospel corn grew to twice its usual size, fruits were in their fullest perfection, and birds hymned unending harmonies in a blooming paradise), there is, in this wonderful region of Central America, unsurpassed for its natural beauty and delicious climate, a mysterious charm upon every hand, from the multiplicity of ruins scattered around in all directions. Upon the borders of the magnificent Lake Nicaragua, whose banks are covered with palms, which look like so many giant plumes, while the shores are covered with a dense mass of verdure, coming down like a wall to the very edge of the water, there are the broad leaves of the plantain, the gigantic ceiba, the slender cocoa palm, beside a hundred other strange varieties bound together by vines covered with flowers, and hanging their long, pliant tendrils from every stem. In this mass of impenetrable verdure, which never fades, wild screaming parrots and noisy macaws glide in and out; and there is heard the perpetual chatter of apes and nimble monkeys, leaping from bough to bough, and plucking the golden fruits which cluster upon those tropical trees. And a short distance to the south of this can be found the rival of the fabulous bird Roc, of the Arabian Nights, in that giant eagle, the Condor of the



Andes. And throughout this portion of Guatemala and Mexico is to be seen almost everywhere the phœnix of the vegetable world, the superb AGAVE AMERICANA, the century plant, which, after receiving the suns of a hundred summers upon its head, blooms but once, and perishes.

But, on the other hand, we are not to accept everything, touching ancient or modern Mexico, with gross gullibility, such as the History of Mexico by the famous Theodore Bry, or Gage's work, in the General History of the Travels of Prevost, or the great work entitled *La Galerie Agreeable du Mond*, which says that "ambassadors were sent in former times to the Court of Mexico mounted upon elephants."

The plain facts are these : here was a mighty wilderness in the western world rich in its tropical luxuriance, a more than Arcadian region, under the name of Anahuac, the earliest twilight of whose history represents it as the home of a shadowy race called the Olmecs, whom the eye of tradition alone can discover through the thickening obscurity of the past ; these were followed by the Toltecs, who were without doubt the Greeks of America, or more nearly resembled in their mighty monuments the Phœnician ancestry of the Athenians ; the pyramid of Cholula being in all probability coeval with that of Cheops.

"The empire of the Aztecs," says an American author, (by whom the three states of Mexico, Tezucó, and Tlacopan, under the general name of Anahuac, were holden,) "lasted about two hundred years, when it was conquered by the Spaniards under Cortez, being the same territory which had been possessed by the Toltecs, a race that passed mysteriously away, leaving a multitude of monuments which marked them as a mighty and wonderful people, who never, according to historians, stained their altars with human blood, nor debased their banquets by the still more horrible custom of cannibalism, as was the case with their Aztec successors, and also to a certain, but much smaller, extent with the Tezcucans.

"These Toltecs, who disappeared so mysteriously and unaccountably, were in all probability the founders of those vast cities whose solid superstructures of stone and giant works of architecture rival in beauty and magnificence, even in their ruins, the mighty wrecks which lie scattered in the desert sands of Egypt ; but whence these Toltecs came, or whither they have vanished, must remain forever an inscrutable secret ; all that we know is that a wonderful race, far advanced in civilization, once held their home in the Great Valley of Mexico : but when we seek to know their habits or their history, an unseen hand is stretched forth, and an impenetrable curtain of clouds is drawn across the sun of their glory, and we are left standing in double darkness, without a star to light the pathway of our wanderings."

In 1325, the Aztecs descended into the Vale of Mexico, whose Eden-like beauty drew from the honest old soldier of Castile,



Bernal Diaz, the exclamation : " When I beheld the scenes which were around me, I thought within myself, this was the garden of the world." Fenced in by a circular wall of mountains lay the matchless valley, and shining along it for seventy miles were the seven silver lakes, including the fresh tide of Chalco, the Sweet Water, and the miniature salt sea of Tezcuco. Within the latter lake, upon the islands of Accocolco, whose bog-like character required them to bring stone from the mainland, they planted the first rude huts, and amid the reeds laid the foundation of an empire, which, in an existence of three hundred years, rose to the pitch of occidental grandeur with a rapidity unparalleled ; and from this mimic sea the Venice of the West lifted her thousand temples and palaces out of the blue bosom of the waters.

By the beginning of the sixteenth century, their sway extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the region of the barbarous Olmecs upon the north, to the furthest limits of Guatemala upon the south. Their language was spoken by seven tribes in and around the Great Valley. They were the Zochimilcas, Topanecas, Colhuas, Tlahuicas Mexicans, and Tlascalans. The latter tribe threw off their allegiance, and repulsed by repeated defeat, the other six tribes had established themselves as an independent republic, some seventy miles from the city of Tenochtitlan, or Mexico, where they remained the rivals for years, and ultimately became the cause of the final overthrow and downfall of the Aztec power.

Of the conquest of Hernando Cortez, it is unnecessary to speak at length, or to tell how he cut his cables, and stood out by night from Cuba, in search of the unknown empire of the west, to the time when he planted his triumphant banner of the Cross and of Castile on the pinnacle of the Temple of Mexitli, and was master of the mightiest monarch that ever swayed the rod of empire in the land of the setting sun. Tracing a course with a handful of chivalrous associates, until by unequalled prowess he had conquered countless hosts, and leagued them to himself and to his cause ; how they had started forth a few poor soldiers of fortune, adventurers, whose chief means consisted of a suit of mail or a stout-limbed steed, with scarce ducats enough to have bought a peasant's hut upon the slopes of the Sierra Morena, or a fisherman's shed on the silver shores of the Guadalquivir, by a sudden freak of fortune, and their own indefatigable fortitude and enterprise, suddenly changed to the possessors of riches which would have purchased the palaces of a Venetian duke, or the Doge himself. Thus bidding defiance to Velasquez, in Cuba, and the threatened thunders of the Bishop of Burgos, in Spain, Cortez burst in upon a silent land with his few cavaliers, emerged suddenly on the golden glories of El Dorado, and found himself, like Sindbad of the Oriental romance, in the midst of the valley of diamonds.

It is unnecessary to dwell upon this theme, the history of the conquest of Mexico has grown familiar, and the exploits of



chivalry in the New World have become as classic as the Crusades. The heroism of the last great chieftain of the Aztecs, who bore the barbarian torture of the Christians with unfaltering fortitude, calling the glowing embers "flowers of fire," draws from the most distinguished man of his day, Alexander Von Humboldt, the expression—"Ce trait est digne de plus beau temps de la Grèce et de Rome. Sous toutes les zones quelle que soit la couleur des hommes, la langage des âmes fortes lorsqu'elles luttent contre malheur. Nous avons vu plus haut quelle fut la fin tragique de cet infortuné Quauhtemotzin."

Without further pursuing the subject of Aztec history, we will pass on without stopping to speculate too curiously upon the various hypotheses touching the origin of the inhabitants of this portion of America: we will not insist upon their being one of the lost tribes of Israel, as Dr. Siguenza and Lord Kingsborough will have it, nor with certain others, that they are of Siberian origin; for in their likeness to Jewish or Asiatic tribes there is not sufficient identity, nor even with the Egyptian, to warrant an assertion that they are the same race. Of their variance from the North American Indian (the red men), there needs no proof, even to the most casual observer; the difference is so distinctive, indeed, from the Caucasian, the Mongolian, the African and Red American races, that the mere glance is sufficient to carry conviction of their separate individuality, as a race; and the more careful examination of the ethnologist goes but to strengthen the fact of their perfectly distinct character, physiologically and phrenologically.

It might be considered just, with great propriety, to class these remarkable specimens of humanity with fabulous existences, if the truth of their being rested upon mere individual assertion—**BUT HERE THEY ARE! LIVING!** and open to public view and examination—not merely imaginary creatures, like the strange men of Africa mentioned by Herodotus, the phoenix or the mermaid. Not a fictitious people, like the fauns and dryads of the Arcadian vales—not the moonlight fairies—the little gray men of the Norse legends—not nymph, sprite, nor elf, but human beings, of flesh and blood—the remnant of a strange and wonderful race, the greatest marvel of the land of wonders, and of the nineteenth century—more strange than the vast skeletons of the mastodon, which have been exhumed in the same region, but, like the black swan of New Holland, formerly regarded as a myth, but now a well-established existence. In short, as curious and as well substantiated as the singular sightless fish of the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky.

In brief, these Aztec Children present the most extraordinary phenomenon in the human race ever witnessed by the modern world: let their origin be what it may—let their history and their country's history be ever so vague and traditionary—doubt the truth of Velasquez's narrative or believe it wholly, these children present themselves the eighth wonder of the world.



They are, without exception, the most remarkable and intensely interesting objects that were ever presented to the European public.

In America they have been the marvel of a million beholders, and wherever they travel they must become the centre of attraction of every inquiring mind, and will doubtless prove a puzzle to the profoundest philosophers and ethnologists of the age.

All the learned and scientific men in the United States have submitted them to critical examination, and unite in pronouncing them the most unique and extraordinary beings that have ever fallen under observation.

The attention of European men of science, ethnologists, physiologists, philosophers and physicians, has been called to these most curious and remarkable children. They have critically examined and fully investigated the subject, and with the scientific men of America have united in pronouncing the AZTEC Children the most startling and extraordinary curiosities that have been exhibited in the present century.



# THE ERDMANNIGES; OR, EARTHMEN OF AFRICA.

## Their Country and History.

THE true native country of this diminutive race is the immense elevated plateau lying between the Gariep or Orange River, in Africa, and the mountains which extend from the Roggeveld earth to the Snow mountains. This river, which flows into the Atlantic in lat.  $28^{\circ} 38'$  S., long.  $16^{\circ} 28'$  E., bounds, westwardly, the settlement of Port Natal, 1200 to 1400 miles distant from Cape Town, and rises in the mountainous district inhabited by this singular people. This district is more barren and inhospitable than that wild and barren tract, the Karoo itself. At certain times of the year, the latter is refreshed with genial rains; the arid patches become green and lovely to the eye; for a brief period, the sandy plain is almost hidden with a bright carpet of flowers. But no such expressions of Nature's goodness are ever seen to play on the hard features of the stony-hearted region inhabited by the poor Earthmen, and long periods glare on with unceasing heat, and without the soil being fertilized with a single drop of rain. Nothing is seen there but rocks, and nothing flourishes naturally but serpents and lizards, a few succulent plants being the only harvest it ever knows. It is walled in by two different climates—that of the Cape Colony, and that of the Caffre country; but it is never visited with the genial winter rains of the former, nor benefited by the purifying thunder-storms of the latter. At rare intervals, a hasty cloud, in passing over, will discharge itself, as if by chance, and that is all. Such is the savage country of the Earthmen—cultivation being thrown away on the land, and its inhabitants driven to a life and circumstances alone belonging to the animal creation.

But two of these Earthmen have ever been brought to any civilized nation, and the unfortunate death of one of them leaves the present survivor as the only specimen of this strange people who will be seen by the Enlightened World for many generations, if not for all time; for the persecutions of their enemies, and their habits of non-intercourse with other tribes, as regards marriage, bid fair, eventually, to sweep them utterly away from among the family of men. The tribe is now to be met with along the entire



range of the Orange River ; yet such is their secrecy of living, so secluded are they in their habits, and so shrinking and timidly sensitive are they at the approach of any but their own people, that many of the longest residents at Port Natal have never seen, and but scarcely heard of them. These habits arise from the ferocity with which they are hunted by the savage tribes which surround them.

The Earthman has no friends. He lives in a large, unvarying circle of enemies, from whom his only escape is invisibility, and this he accomplishes by burrowing holes into the ground, and there finding shelter beyond the reach of man or beast. It is this singular habit from which their name of "Earthmen" is derived. A colony of them resembles a gigantic warren of rabbits. Along the precipitous sides of a range of mountains, the sunny border of which lies by a stream of fresh water, and high up from its banks, thousands of holes are constructed, which extend back into the mountain, sometimes as far as three miles, and continuous passages from which penetrate from one mountain to another, upwards of twenty miles. These holes are so numerous and intricate, that in the course of time whole mountains become honey-combed, and a colony of Earthmen, who have been hunted from one side of a mountain, will speedily reappear on the other side. Busy settlements in one section of the country are quickly deserted, and its flying population find homes, many miles distant, without betraying the slightest movement in the open air. Thousands of little figures are constantly busy hewing out new excavations, at which long practice has made them most expert. For this purpose, their toe and finger nails are cultivated in the shape of scoops or shovels, and the arms and legs being worked rapidly together, a fountain of dirt flies from the ground under the efforts of the busy little creature, who penetrates into it like the point of an auger, scattering rocks and dirt in every direction. On a hole being commenced, for a few minutes this pile of rubbish grows larger, until the little creature is fairly out of sight, and then the loose earth is carefully removed to some subterranean receptacle, while rocks and moss are placed so as to conceal the entrance, leaving upon the mountain side the same unbroken surface as before.

A more interesting scene can scarcely be imagined than that of their settlement, when undisturbed. For several miles' distance the hill-sides are teeming with a busy population, actively passing to and fro among their habitations. Thousands are in pursuit of game ; thousands are building new habitations, while other thousands are peeping from the surface of the ground, or chatting together in little groups near the entrances. If a Bushman, Hottentot or Caffre approaches, the alarm is given by their sentinels, even when he is miles distant, and in a moment the busy thousands vanish ; the entrances to their holes are quickly covered, and not a sound is heard, nor a twig stirs, where all before was life and



animation. If the native African, or beast of prey, discovers one of the holes, and is small enough to penetrate therein, nothing will be seen and nothing heard, but soon being blocked up before and behind, a lingering death is sure to await the adventurer.

The sustenance of the Earthmen is poor and precarious. Ixias, wild garlic, the core of aloes, the gum of acarias, and several other plants, berries, and roots, constitute their fruits; while almost every kind of living creature and creeping thing, lizards, locusts, and grasshoppers not excepted, form their staple meats. The poisonous, as well as innoxious serpents, they roast and eat. They cut off the head of the former, which they dissect, and extract the bags, or reservoirs of poison which communicate with the fangs of the upper jaw. Eggs also are favorite sources of sustenance, and whether they be of the ostrich, mud turtle, or those of the white ant, they are all eagerly sought for. In the winter, if provisions run short, the Earthman is glad to dine off an old gnu-skin. This he steeps in water, rubs off the hair, and then gnaws it, extracting enough nourishment to last him, in his almost torpid state, for months together. The Earthmen have no household utensils, except tortoise-shell cups, ostrich-egg gourds, and similar rude implements. Some of them have knives, but more for ornament than use, as they eat flesh raw, and masticate it but little, while roots and esculent plants are dug up with the hands.

The necessity of procuring food by artifice, since they have no flocks, herds or plants which they can call their own, has led to their use of poisoned arrows, in the preparation of which they excel all known tribes. The poison, when first applied, is of a brown color and glutinous quality. When fresh, it has the consistency of wax, but soon dries, and becomes hard. The principal ingredient is the poison of serpents, but as this is of itself too thin, they mix it with the poisonous sap of the *euphorbia* plant. Another poison is extracted from the bulb of the *humanthus toxicartus*, which is a sharp alkali, and when mixed with the blood decomposes it immediately. Another sort bears the name of rock poison, from being a viscous substance occasionally found upon the rocks. The ingredients are mixed according to the object against which the arrows are to be used. If against a man, there is used a larger proportion of the serpent poison; while for beasts, that of the *euphorbia* plant is found most fatal. The different poisons are prepared and mixed in hollow stones, previously heated, and with the most extreme care, as instant deaths occur when the slightest puncture is made by the poison tipper. The preparing of the arrows and mixing the poison are considered by the Earthmen as arts in which but few of their countrymen attain perfection, and the art of correctly distinguishing the poisonous serpents from those which are not so is deemed so worthy an acquisition, that those of the tribe who are thus gifted enjoy a superior rank over the common people. The most active reptiles are generally deemed to be those of the most nox-



ious kind. Thus, the well-horned serpent, which, among the white colonists, is considered so very dangerous, is well esteemed by the Earthmen, since, although very poisonous, it does not move rapidly, and is easily taken. Others, usually good for poisonous purposes, are denounced by the Earthmen as having no effective poison when about to cast their skins. The greater the trouble which the Earthmen have in catching a serpent, and the harder they have to hold it down, with the stones which they retain, for this purpose, in their hands, the more pungent and deadly is the poison deemed likely to be by the Earthmen connoisseurs. Their dexterity and courage in catching these serpents are truly astonishing; no sooner do they find the reptile upon a clear spot, than they place one foot upon its back, their legs and feet encased in skins wrapped around for this purpose. The serpent at once snaps at the foot, and while its attention is thus diverted, the native instantly snatches at the head from behind, with his open hand, and closes the eyes and mouth of the reptile with a grasp of such certainty and strength as is only acquired by long practice and rare boldness. They then separate the head from the body with a knife, or, for want of that, *bite it off!* The bag of poison is then taken from the head and prepared at once for use, to allow no time for its pungency to evaporate.

The Earthmen have no recognized language beyond the simple and almost unintelligible *patois* which designates their simple wants: they are almost without names, among themselves; are without enjoyments, beyond extravagant feasting and the use of tobacco; they have no knowledge of the Supreme Being; they know no marriage state, and make no distinction of girl, maiden or wife. They seem naturally to be animated with but one fear—that of death—while the persecution to which they are subjected and the general nature of their intercourse with each other render love to kith and kin unknown, but love to their whole race strong and fervent indeed.

The two little Earthmen, who alone of all this people have ever been captured, were brought to England from Southern Africa, under the care of Captain Wetherall, in the brig *Hannah*, in the year 1850. The agent of a large Dutch mercantile house, at Port Natal, had fallen in with them on the Drakenburg Mountains, among the tribes of which he was penetrating for the purchase of elephants' tusks. He was especially interested by the singular intelligence of a little boy and girl, and ascertaining that their parents had been murdered, he succeeded in purchasing them for a few beads and buttons, and they returned with him to his residence at Pietermaritzberg, on the coast, where their aptitude at mental culture was so soon made manifest, that he disliked to see the little creatures neglected and running wild about his counting house. He therefore sent them to England for education, where they arrived in 1851, and where they were placed under the care of Mr. Daniel George, at Waddon, near Croydon. Arriving there, ignorant and



uncouth to the last extent, speaking no language except a few words of Dutch, picked up since their capture, they so rapidly progressed in knowledge and culture, that on the 6th August, 1853, they were presented to the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, who was greatly pleased with their vivacity, intelligence and courtesy. There was a difference of two years in their ages, the account sent over with them representing the boy, who was christened by his captor as *Martinus*, to have been 16 years of age, and the girl, whom he named *Flora*, as 14 years old. Full-length models of them were taken by Dr. R. J. Latham, for the Ethnological Department, at the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, England, and for a long period these unique specimens of a pigmy race received the attention of the most noted *Savans* and Philosophers of Europe, and that of the English Press, from among the abundant notices of which the two following extracts are made :

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY—THE EARTHMEN.—At a conversation at the rooms of the Society, on the evening of the 8th January, these pigmies of the human race were examined by the chief Scientific Professor of the metropolis, and by many Ethnologists from various parts of the kingdom, distinguished by the ardor of their pursuit in this interesting branch of knowledge. Sir Benjamin Brodie presided on the occasion. The greatest interest was elicited by the perfect proportion of their forms ; and their marked intelligence, gentleness of manners, and gracefulness of movement, were the ruling topic of conversation. The conclusion arrived at by the principal examiners, after a vast array of conflicting arguments, founded on the contradictory reports of travelers and missionaries, who had visited Southern Africa, was, that the “Erdmanner” then present were members of a race entirely distinct from the Hottentot, the Kaffir, the Bosjesman, or the Batarde ; that, although possessing certain characteristics which were common to the various races hitherto discovered in the interior of the vast unexplored region of Southern Africa, these little beings were specimens of a pure, uncontaminated people, becoming, from certain moral and physical causes, rapidly extinct. It was unanimously pronounced by all present—Dr. Latham included—that these Earthmen were the most curious, as well as the most interesting—whether viewed morally or physically—of any of the several varieties of the human family which have hitherto been brought to Europe. Their models, cast in bronze, form a part of the Ethnological department of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham.—*London Morning Post*.

THE EARTHMEN.—Two specimens, male and female, of the last link in the human chain, termed the Earthmen, or Erdmanniges (the penultimate being the Bosjesman), have been in this country since 1851. The taller of the two is not three feet and a half in height ; but they have lost no time in acquiring the rudiments of European civilization, and they play on the piano and sing in a pretty, childish style. The expression of their countenances is very pleasing, and the figures and movements of the children are remarkably graceful. They are, in a drawing room, quite at their ease, so that the visitor literally gives them a call, and becomes one of their society.—*London Times*.

At the period when these notices were given, the children had attained the height of thirty-nine and a half inches, which did not vary materially from what it was when they left Africa. Those who recollected them on the passage could then discern no perceptible increase of size, but, as the children advanced from youth to maturity, their forms gradually developed to a height of about four feet. This is rather above the usual size of their race, but is amply accounted for by the generous diet and comfortable circumstances of civilized life, over the habits of starvation and want peculiar to



their natural state. The boy, Martinus, died about a year since, in Wales, since which Flora has remained the only one of her people absent from their native country. She has become intelligent, and even graceful, and is not less remarkable as a descendant of so singular and depressed a race, than for the great improvements which her person and mind exhibit under civilized life and education.

These remarkable specimens of humanity (the AZTECS and EARTH WOMAN)—themselves the greatest curiosities the world has ever beheld—have been engaged by P. T. BARNUM, Proprietor and Manager of the American Museum in New York city, where they are now on exhibition, and attracting the attention of all classes of the community, including many of the most scientific minds of the country; and they are universally regarded here, as they have been in Europe, as “objects of peculiar interest to the Physiologist and Naturalist;” and in the highest degree *unique* and *amusing*, by the mere lovers of the wonderful and curious.

The Proprietor is not content to rely upon the above alone, as attractions for his Museum, but adds them to the long list of novelties he had already engaged; among which is that *most wonderful of all Nature's works*—a creature which, for want of a better name—in fact, for want of any name at all—has been designated

## THE WHAT IS IT?



OR,

## MAN-MONKEY!

a most singular animal, which, though it has many of the features and characteristics of both the human and brute, is not, apparently, either, but, in appearance, a mixture of both—the connecting link between humanity and the brute creation.



In regard to this wonderful freak of Nature, the keeper thus addresses, on all explanatory occasions, his crowded audience :

" This nondescript was captured by a party of adventurers who were in search of the Gorilla. While exploring the River Gambia, near the mouth, they fell in with a race of beings never before discovered. They were six in number. They were in a **PERFECTLY NUDE STATE**, roving about among the trees and branches, in the manner common to the Monkey and Orang Outang. After considerable exertion, the hunters succeeded in capturing three of these oddities—two males and a female. All of them were forwarded to this country, but, unfortunately, two of them sickened and died on the voyage across. The present one is the only survivor. When first received here, his natural position was **ON ALL FOURS** ; and it has required the exercise of the greatest care and patience to teach him to stand perfectly erect, as you behold him at the present moment. But a few weeks have elapsed, in fact, since he first assumed this attitude, and walked about upon his feet. If you notice, you will perceive that the **WALK OF THE WHAT IS IT** is very awkward, like that of a child beginning to acquire that accomplishment. When he first came his only food was raw meat, sweet apples, oranges, nuts, &c., of all of which he was very fond ; but he will now eat bread, cake, and similar things, though he is fonder of raw meat or that which, slow cooked, is rare. If you notice the formation of this nondescript, you will observe that it is something very peculiar, indeed. The formation of the head and face combines both that of the native African and of the Orang Outang. The upper part of the head, and the forehead in particular, instead of being four or five inches broad, as it should be, to resemble a human being, is **LESS THAN TWO INCHES** ! The **HEAD OF THE WHAT IS IT** is very small. The ears are set back about an inch too far for humanity, and about three-fourths of an inch too high up. They should form a line with the ridge of the nose, to be like that of a human being. As they are now placed, they constitute the perfect head and skull of the Orang Outang, while the lower part of the face is that of the native African. In the next place, the teeth, instead of standing erect, occupy a slanting position, like those of the horse or the sheep, slanting to a great distance under the tongue, and into the roof of the mouth. The teeth are double nearly all around, and the creature is not able to close its mouth entirely, owing to the formation of the jaws, which are crooked instead of straight, thus leaving the front of the mouth open about half an inch. **THE ARMS OF THE WHAT IS IT** are much too long in proportion to its height—at least some three inches. They are also crooked like those of the Orang Outang, and it is not able to straighten them. He has great strength in his hands and arms. Anything he can get hold of he will cling to for quite a length of time. There is apparently more strength in his hands and arms than in all the rest of his body combined. In the next place, his legs are crooked, like those of the Orang Outang. He cannot make them straighter than you see them now. He has no calf to his leg, but exhibits a gradual taper from the knee to the ankle joint. **THE WHAT IS IT'S FOOT** is narrow, slim, and flat, and has a long heel, like that of the native African. The large toe is more like a man's thumb. The others are bent under, and the distortion appears to be natural. He is supposed to be twenty or twenty-three years old, but there is nothing positive known in regard to his age. He may be older, or possibly younger than that. He stands about four feet high, and weighs fifty pounds. He has been examined by some of the most scientific men we have, and pronounced by them to be a **CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE WILD NATIVE AFRICAN AND THE BRUTE CREATION** ; and the formation of the head and limbs is such as to leave beyond any doubt whatever the characteristic claims of the **WHAT IS IT?**"

### THE AQUARIA, OR RIVER GARDENS.

As the great Pioneer of the Aquaria in the United States, **BARNUM'S MUSEUM**, presents a variety of specimens in this branch of the art, the perfection of which is necessarily ensured by long experience and fertile resources. The large number of variously-sized tanks at the Museum, filled with almost every kind of fish



and curious reptiles, were constructed by artificers originally taught and employed at the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London.

Among the curiosities of the Aquaria may be mentioned the *Pigmy Dace*, an active little fellow, scarcely more than an inch long, but as perfect in formation, and much resembling, the large shad; *Gold* and *Silver Fish*, of every kind are also there. Some as white as paper, with pearly-pink splashes on the body and curious markings about the head and tail; some a rich scarlet; some of deep carmine, and thus through almost every imaginable color. The "*Stickle-back*," or, "*Prickle-back*," one of the tiniest of little fish, is also here, as bold as a whale. If attacked, he straightens up the little row of bayonets with which Nature has provided his back, not only making himself an unsavory morsel to be swallowed, but actually engages in combat with fish several times his size, and not unfrequently leaves them dead in the tanks. These pugnacious habits are remarkable in a fish frequently but half an inch long. The *Minnow* is also one of the least of these little fish, all of them perfect curiosities in their infinitesimal proportions, but full grown and perfected in their several kinds. The *Shark* is found swimming leisurely within these tanks, with a cold, ferocious eye, ready for a combat with fish of all sizes; the *Sheep's Head Fish*, whose head exactly resembles the quadruped from which its name is derived; the *Pickarel*, with its long, sharp jaws, somewhat resembling the Alligator in its mouth, and worse than the Alligator for ferocity among fresh-water fish; the beautiful *Trout*, with its speckled, many-colored and beautiful spots, and the brilliancy of whose appearance equals the magnificent plumage of the ruby-necked Humming Bird; the great *Black Bass*, which meanders slowly among the rocks at the bottom of the tanks; the *Angel Fish*, which exhibits the most brilliant rainbow tints of any fish or bird on the globe; *Cat Fishes*, which move sluggishly among sea-weeds and water-plant growth appropriate to the species. All these are very curious and interesting specimens. The *Striped Bass* is also a most beautiful fish, and a great variety of them are found in the tanks; the *Cow Fish* is a huge, ungainly species, not inaptly named after the beast which it represents; the *Silver Eel* is a tiny but perfect specimen of this fish, lean and transparent, so that its skeleton can be discerned through its sides, and yet in the full possession of natural health and activity. Added to the many other kinds of fish, of which want of room necessarily prevents any description, there are tanks containing *Turtles*, young *Alligators*, *Crabs*, *Lizards*, *Sea-shell Fish*, *Sea Sponges*, *Oysters*, *Clams*, and an almost endless variety of animal life as it exists in the different Oceans and Rivers of the Globe. Many beautiful *Water Plants* are also exhibited. The whole of the Aquaria Department, bringing, as it does to close view, an abundance of different kinds of fish, otherwise never seen, and giving opportunities for studying them in their native element, and in all their natural animation and activity, affords a recreation to the lover of nature which has never been excelled.







# Barnum's American Museum,

THE ONLY PLACE OF AMUSEMENT IN AMERICA HONORED WITH

## A VISIT FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES,

WHO, WITH THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, EARL ST. GERMAINS, AND OTHERS OF HIS SUITE,  
EXPRESSED HIMSELF DELIGHTED WITH THE CURIOSITIES HE EXAMINED,

## THE WONDER OF AMERICA,

and unquestionably, from its position, character and popularity, as well as from its attractions of the most amusing, instructive and moral character, the special place of **Family Amusement** in the United States.

MR. BARNUM devotes his constant energies and attends personally to the minutest details of the Museum, his chief desire being not only to give his patrons novelties and amusements, worth five times the price of admission, but also to PLEASE THEM in every respect. The extraordinary **LIVING CURIOSITIES** which are constantly appearing here in a variety truly astonishing are confessedly a valuable exhibition of themselves.

### THE GRAND AQUARIA

(first introduced into this country by MR. BARNUM), the original and only real ocean and river garden in America, with its crystal ponds of salt and fresh water, containing myriads of rare, beautiful and curious fish from far-distant as well as local seas and rivers, forms a study most refined and delightful, and worth going many miles to enjoy.

### The Happy Family!

Comprising hundreds of living beasts and birds of opposite natures, trained to live together in the most perfect harmony, must be seen to be realized.

P. T. BARNUM,  
PROPRIETOR AND MANAGER.



J. GREENWOOD, JR.,  
ASSISTANT MANAGER.

## THE SEVEN GRAND SALOONS, WHICH ARE OPEN DAY AND EVENING,

embody 850,000 curiosities, and comprise Birds, Beasts, Fishes, Insects, Minerals, Coins, Pictures and Portrait Gallery, gorgeous Cosmorama Views of the most interesting Scenes in the World, Wax Figures, Relics of the Revolution, Rare Articles from Pompeii, Herculaneum, Nineveh, Egypt, etc. Also, Hindoo, Hottentot, Esquimaux and Arctic Sea Curiosities, etc., etc.

## THE ELEGANT SALOON PERFORMANCES

take place in the prettiest and most comfortable "Lecture Room" in the World, every afternoon and evening.

In a speech, recently delivered before the patrons of the Museum, at the opening of the Fall and Winter season, MR. BARNUM says: "I am by no means unaware of the great influence for good which this establishment is capable of exerting upon the public mind. I feel the responsibility of my position, and I therefore gladly renew my pledge to families and the better portion of the community to keep the Museum always free from every objectionable feature, to permit no intoxicating drinks within its halls, no vulgar or profane allusions on the stage, no improper visitors of either sex, and to use the same precaution to protect any visitors while in the Museum, that I would my own family, so that any lady or child shall be as safe here as in their own house."

Admission to the entire Museum, including all the Curiosities, as well as to the Grand Saloon Performances, **TWENTY-FIVE CENTS**. Children under ten years, **FIFTEEN CENTS**. Seats in Parquet and Balcony, **Fifteen Cents extra**.