

## **Werk**

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To the left, 2 M. from Querétaro, in a romantic ravine, is the large \**Hercules Mill*, the largest cotton-mill in Mexico (1800 workmen).

On this part of the journey we see immense fields of the *Maguey* or *Century Plant* (*Agave Americana*), cultivated by the Mexicans for the sake of its sap, which is converted into the national beverage *Pulque*. The plants are sometimes 10-12 ft. high. A spirituous liquor named *Mescal* is distilled from the leaves of the maguey, and another (*Tequila*) from its roots, while its fibre and thorns are also turned to commercial uses.

Beyond (1106 M.) *San Juan del Rio* (6245 ft.; Rail. Restaurant; 15,000 inhab.) the line ascends rapidly, passing the plain of (1124 M.) *Casadero* and reaching its highest point (8135 ft.) just beyond (1148 M.) *Marques*. The descent hence to Mexico is very fine. — 1174 M. *Tula* (6660 ft.; Hidalgo, Montezuma), a town of about 1500 inhab., is believed to have been founded by the Toltecs and contains interesting remains ascribed to that people (guides at the hotels). — Beyond (1185 M.) *El Salto*, where we join a branch of the Mexican National R. R., we skirt the *Tajo de Nochistongo* (right), a canal-cutting made by the Spaniards in 1607-8 to drain the lakes in the Valley of Mexico (comp. p. 546). It is 12½ M. long, 130-165 ft. deep, and 260-330 ft. wide. The majestic snow-capped peaks of *Ixtaccihuatl* and *Popocatepetl* (p. 549) come into view ahead of us. The line again ascends somewhat. 1195 M. *Huehuetoca* (7410 ft.).

1224 M. **City of Mexico**, see below.]

## 110. The City of Mexico.

**Railway Stations.** *Mexican Central Station* and *Mexican Railway Station* (Vera Cruz), Plazuela de Buena Vista, on the W. side of the city; *Mexican National Station*, Colonia Arquitectos, to the S.W.; *Interoceanic Station*, San Lazaro, to the E.; *Irolo Station* (Hidalgo & N.E. Railway), Peralvillo, to the N.E.

**Hotels** (comp. p. 537). **SANZ HOTEL**, Calle de la Mariscal, a large and luxuriously equipped house with all modern conveniences, from \$7, R. from \$3; **COLISEO**, Calle del Coliseo 10, R. from \$1.50; **ITURBIDE**, Calle de San Francisco, a large house enclosing a roomy central court, once the residence of the Emp. Iturbide, R. \$1½-5 (elevator); \***GRAND HOTEL**, Calle Ortega 12, R. \$1-3; **HOTEL DEL JARDIN** ('Hardeen'), Calle Primera Independencia y Letran, well spoken of, \$3-8; **OPERA**, Calle de Vergara; **SAN CARLOS**, Calle del Coliseo, R. \$1-3; \***HUMBOLDT**, \$3; **GUARDIOLA**, R. \$1-3; **AMERICAN**, **GILLOW**, \$1-3; **COMFORT**, \$1-1½. — **Restaurants** at the above hotels; \**Restaurant Austria*, Cinco de Mayo 6; \**Café de Paris*; \**Recamier*; \**Concordia*; *Restaurant Schiller*, Coliseo Nuevo, opposite the Teatro Principal; \**Café Colon*, Paseo de la Reforma; *Rich's Chop House*, Beltramitas St.; *Maison Dorée*; *Fonda San Agustín* (one of the best of the Mexican *fondas*, with genuine native cooking); *Eliseo*, *San Cosme*, garden restaurants (so-called 'Tivolis'), easily reached by the San Cosme tramway, meals \$1¼-1½.

**Tramways**, drawn by mules, intersect the city in all directions (fare in first-class cars 6c.; to suburban points 10-25c.). [It is expected that one of the lines will soon be equipped with electricity.] — **Cabs** are divided into three classes, denoted by blue, red, and yellow flags; fares \$1, 75c., and 50c. per hr., 50c., 40c., and 25c. per ½ hr. or fraction thereof or per drive. The fare from the railway-stations to the hotel, including hand-baggage, is about the same as the hourly rate. Double fares after 10 p.m.

and on Shrove Tuesday, All Souls Day, and Battle of Flowers Day; fare and a half on Sundays and other holidays.

**Baths.** *Baños del Factor*, Factor St.; *San Agustin*, San Agustin Hotel; *San Felipe de Jesus*, in the street of that name; *Vergara*, Vergara St.; in the Iturbide Hotel (25-38 c.; p. 545); *Paseo*, Paseo de la Reforma (25 c.-\$ 1).

**Theatres.** *Teatro Nacional*, see p. 548 (good performances of opera in winter); *Teatro Principal*, Calle del Coliseo; *Arbeu*, Calle de San Felipe Neri; *Hidalgo*, Calle de Cocheras. — *Orrin's Circus*, Plaza Villamil.

**Shops** (English spoken at most of the best). Mexican curiosities, photographs, guide-books, maps, English books, periodicals, & newspapers: *Hoeck*, Primera Calle de San Francisco 12; *Spaulding*, Calle de Cadena 23; *Sonora News Co.*, First Estaciones 3; *Bloch*, Primera Calle de San Francisco 1; *Art & Curio Co.*, Puente San Francisco 16; *American News Agency*, Puente San Francisco 5. Other good shops are in the Calle de los Plateros, the Calle de San Francisco, the Coliseo Nuevo, and the Calle de Cinco de Mayo. — 'The Mexican Herald' and 'The Two Republics', two daily papers in English (5 c.), contain many useful items for the tourist, including daily lists of letters lying at the G. P. O. for English and American visitors (comp. p. 538). — *Union de Ciclistas Mexicanos* (president, Thos. E. Crump).

**Streets.** The streets of the city of Mexico were officially re-named in 1889. The town is divided into four quarters by the long street called *Avenida Oriente* and *Av. Poniente*, running from E. to W. past the N. side of the Plaza de la Constitucion and the Alameda, and by the *Calle Norte* and *Calle Sur*, running from N. to S. and intersecting the *Avenida* one block E. of the Alameda. All streets running E. and W. are called *Avenidas* (those to the E. of the dividing line *Av. Oriente*, to the W. *Av. Poniente*), while all the streets running N. and S. are called *Calles* (those to the N. of the central *Avenida Ca. Norte*, to the S. *Ca. Sur*). Each street has a number. The old names, however, were so pertinaciously retained by the inhabitants that they have been restored to their places, alongside the new ones. The latter are seldom used.

**Post Office**, at the N. end of the Palacio Nacional (p. 547); branch office, Calle San Juan de Letran.

**British Minister**, *Sir Henry Nevill Dering*, Puente Alvarado 15; consul, *Mr. Lionel Carden*, Calle de Gante 11. — **U. S. Minister**, *Hon. Powell Clayton*, Calle Buenavista 4; U. S. Consul General, *Mr. A. D. Barlow*, Calle San Diego 6.

**Protestant Churches.** Services in English are held at Calle de Gante 5 (Meth. Epis., 10.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.), *Christ Church*, Fourth Calle de la Providencia 5 (Epis., 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.), and *Union Church*, Calle de San Juan Letran 12 (11 a.m. and 8 p.m.).

**Mexico** (7400 ft.), the capital and by far the largest city of the Mexican Republic, lies in the centre of the Valley of Mexico, in part of the former bed of Lake Texcoco. It contains (1895) 344,377 inhab., chiefly full-blooded Indians or mestizoes, and including about 3000 natives of the United States and Great Britain. The streets are generally wide and electrically lighted. Most of the buildings are of stone, and several of the public edifices are very handsome. The public squares and gardens and the residential suburbs are very attractive. The climate is equable (50-70° Fahr.).

The Spanish city of Mexico was founded in 1522 on the site of the ancient Aztec *Tenochtitlan*, the population of which is placed by tradition at from 300,000 to 500,000. Its growth has been steady and rapid. In 1600 it contained 15,000 inhab., in 1746 it had 90,000, and in 1800 it had about 120,000. The commerce of the city is mainly in transit. Its manufactures include cigars, gold and silver work, pottery, feather work, saddlery, paper, religious pictures, and hats. Numerous ineffectual attempts have been made to drain the valley of Mexico (comp. p. 545), but it is hoped that the great *Drainage Canal*, completed in 1898 at a cost of \$ 10,000,000, will

prove a radical cure. It is 30 M. long and crosses the mountains by a tunnel 6 M. in length. Its width at the top varies from 45 ft. to 168 ft. The canal is crossed by numerous bridges of stone and iron.

The **\*Cathedral** (*Church of the Asuncion de Maria Santisima*) stands on the N. side of the PLAZA DE LA CONSTITUCION or PLAZA MAYOR, 5-10 min. walk from the Sanz and other chief hotels. This edifice, which occupies the site of the chief Aztec temple (*Teocalli*), was begun in 1573 and finally dedicated in 1667. The towers, 248 ft. high, were not completed till 1791. It is 425 ft. long (from N. to S.), 200 ft. wide, and 180 ft. high. In style it is similar to the Spanish Renaissance edifices of the same period.

The Interior, which is in the Doric style with traces of Gothic, has an imposing effect in spite of its huge and incongruous modern altars and the wooden flooring. The fine *Dome* is adorned with paintings. The *Choir* occupies the centre of the church and has richly carved stalls. The aisles are adjoined by rows of chapels, the most interesting of which are the *Capilla San Felipe de Jesus*, with the tomb of the Emp. Iturbide, the *Cap. de las Reliquias*, with paintings of martyrs by Juan de Herrera, and the *Cap. San Pedro*. The *Sacristy* and the *Chapter House* also contain interesting paintings. The heads of Hidalgo, Allende, Jimenez, and Aldama (comp. p. 541) are interred below the *Altar de los Reyes*, in the apse. — The visitor should not fail to ascend one of the towers for the sake of the *\*View of the city* (small fee).

On the E. the Cathedral is adjoined by the *\*Sagrario Metropolitano*, the first parish-church of the city, dating in its present form from 1749-69 and restored in 1858. It is in the florid style named after the Spanish architect Churriguera (close of 17th cent.). — In front of the Sagrario is the *Martinez Monument*, showing the geographical position of the city, the varying levels of Lake Texcoco, etc.

The centre of the Plaza Mayor is occupied by the pretty ZOCALO GARDEN, where a band generally plays in the evening. Almost all the tramway-lines start in this square.

On the E. side of the Plaza Mayor stands the huge **Palacio Nacional**, 675 ft. long, containing many of the governmental offices (interior open to visitors). The chief points of-interest are the large *Hall of the Ambassadors* (with portraits of Mexican celebrities) and the *Senate Room*. — On the S. side of the Plaza are the *Diputacion* or *Palacio del Ayuntamiento* (City Hall) and the *Portal de las Flores* (shops). On the W. side are the *Portales Mercaderes*. — To the S.E. of the Plaza is the chief *\*Market* of the city.

Behind the Palacio Nacional and entered from the Calle de Moreda is the **\*National Museum** (open daily, 10-12).

The most valuable and interesting collections are the *\*\*Mexican Antiquities* (from Yucatan, etc.), including the famous *Aztec Sacrificial Stone* and the *\*Aztec Calendar*. The *Historical Collections* are also of interest. See Catalogue (Engl. trans. by W. W. Blake).

A little farther to the E., in the Calle Amor de Dios, is the **\*Academy of San Carlos** (*Museum of Fine Arts*; 10-12), with good Italian and Flemish paintings and interesting collections of old and modern Mexican works (*\*Las Casas* protecting the Indians, by *Felix Parra*, etc.).

To the W. of the Cathedral, in the Calle del Empedradillo, is the *Monte de Piedad*, or National Pawn Office, founded in 1775. Valuable objects may often be procured here at low prices.

The CALLE DE PLATEROS (now Avenida Oriente 4), forming with its prolongation the CALLE DE SAN FRANCISCO (or Av. Poniente 4), the principal business-street of the city, leads to the W. from the Plaza Mayor to ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  M.) the \**Alameda*, a beautiful public garden, with fine beeches and a great variety of flowering trees and shrubs (band frequently; fashionable promenade on Sun. forenoon). — The CALLE DE CINCO DE MAYO (or Av. Poniente 1) running parallel with the Calle de San Francisco on the N., is also a fine street. It ends on the W. at the *National Theatre* (p. 546).

Near the Buena Vista stations (p. 545) and adjoining the *Guerrero Garden* is the *Church of San Fernando*, the interesting cemetery attached to which contains the graves of Juarez (fine monument), Miramon (p. 544), Mejia (p. 544), Zaragossa, Guerrero, Comonfort, and other eminent Mexicans.

Among the numerous other interesting buildings in the city, of which but a scanty selection can be named here, are the *Biblioteca Nacional* (275,000 vols.), in the Calle St. Agustin, a little to the S.W. of the Plaza Mayor; the *Casa de Moneda* (Mint), in the Calle de Apartado; the \**Mineria* (School of Mines), in the Calle de San Andres (29-51), near the Alameda (enormous meteorites in the court and portico); the *House of Congress*, in the former Teatro Iturbide, at the corner of the Calle Primera del Factor and the Calle de la Canoa (large new one to be erected); the *Church of Santo Domingo*, in the plaza of the same name, a little to the N. of the Cathedral, the *School of Medicine*, opposite the last, occupied by the Inquisition for 250 years; the *Conservatory of Music*, in the Calle del Universita; the huge new *City Hospital*; the new *Prison*; the *Church of La Santisima*, with its finely carved façade,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  M. to the E. of the Cathedral; and numerous other churches and charitable institutions.

The fashionable drive of the Mexicans is the beautiful \**PASEO DE LA REFORMA*, which begins near the Alameda and runs to the S.W. to (2 M.) Chapultepec (see below). At the entrance is an equestrian statue of Charles IV., and the 'Glorietas', or circles (400 ft. in diameter), which occur at frequent intervals further on, are adorned with monuments to *Columbus*, *Guatemotzin* (the last Indian Emperor), *Juarez*, *Friar Servando Teresa de Mier*, *Gen. Juan Zuazua*, etc. The Paseo commands fine views of Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl (p. 549). At the end of it is a small park with a collection of native animals.

#### Environs of Mexico.

The chief point of interest in the immediate neighbourhood of the City of Mexico is the \**Palace of Chapultepec*, finely situated on a rocky hill at the end of the Paseo de la Reforma (see above; also reached by the Tacubaya tramway from the Plaza Mayor, 10 c.). Orders of admission (free) may be obtained at the Consulates or through the Hotel Interpreters. The present building, which occupies the site of Montezuma's Palace, dates from 1783-85, with later additions. It is occupied by President Diaz and by the National Military School (320 cadets). The fine old cypresses in the grove surrounding the palace (*Cupressus disticha*) reach a height of 120 ft and a girth of 30-40 ft. A monument commemorates the cadets who fel.

in the defence of the palace against the Americans in 1847. Beyond the hill is the battlefield of *Molino del Rey* (Sept. 8th, 1847). The \*View from the ramparts includes the city and valley of Mexico, with Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl in the background. — From Chapultepec the excursion may be extended (tramway  $1\frac{1}{4}$  M.) to *Tacubaya*, with the National Observatory, two churches, a secularised convent, and beautiful private \*Gardens.

About  $2\frac{1}{4}$  M. to the N. of the city (tramway from the Plaza Mayor; 10 c.) is *Guadalupe Hidalgo*, with the sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron-saint of Mexico and more especially of the Indians. The Virgin is believed to have appeared to an Indian, Juan Diego, in 1531, on the adjoining hill of Tepeyacac. At the foot of the hill is the large church of *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*, completed in 1709, containing a miraculous picture of the Virgin, imprinted on Diego's *tilma* (blanket). At the top of the hill is the *Capilla del Cerrito*, and close by is another chapel, covering a holy (chalybeate) spring. The singular monument on the hill was erected by a grateful seaman.

The curious \**Chinampas* or *Floating Gardens*, near the villages of (2 M.) *Santa Anita* and (3 M.) *Ixtacalco*, are reached by the *Viga Canal*, leading to the S. from the city (tramway from the Plaza to the Canal 6 c.; boat to Santa Anita and back about \$ $\frac{3}{4}$ -1, to Ixtacalco \$2). This is a highly interesting trip and should be made at least as far as Santa Anita (most varied life seen on Sun.). The boats are a kind of rude parody of the Venetian gondola. A visit may be paid on the way to the *Hacienda of Don Juan Corona*, containing a collection of relics and a charity school. The 'floating gardens' are now small pieces of ground separated by narrow canals and used for growing vegetables. The canal ends at (3 M.) the *Lago de Xochimilco*.

At *Popotla*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  M. to the W. of the city (tramway from the Plaza; 12 c.), is the famous \**Arbol de la Noche Triste*, or *Tree of the Dismal Night*, under which Cortes is said to have wept on the night of the expulsion of the Spaniards from Mexico (July 1st, 1520). It is a kind of cypress (see p. 548). The road to it passes the *Tlaxpana Aqueduct*. The tramway goes on to *Tacuba* and ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  M. farther) *Atzacotalco* (18 c.).

Tramway excursions may also be made to *Dolores*, *Mixcoac* and the *Castañeda*, *La Piedad*, *San Angel*, *Tlalpam*, and other points.

The two magnificent snow-capped volcanoes of Popocatepetl (17,780 ft.) and Ixtaccihuatl ('Istaciwatl'; 16,060 ft.) are conspicuous features in the environment of Mexico. The former is sometimes ascended from *Amecameca*, on the *Interoceanic Railway*; but the ascent is arduous and should not be attempted except by experienced mountaineers in good condition. Guides and horses may be obtained in Amecameca, but the bulk of the provisions should be brought from Mexico. The trip takes 2-3 days and costs about \$40 for a single traveller and \$25 for each member of a party.

FROM MEXICO TO CUERNAVACA, 75 M., *Mexico, Cuernavaca, & Pacific Railway* in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. This line (departure from the Mex. Central Station) passes through some charming scenery, and the trip is well worth making. — 8 M. *Tacubaya* (see above). From (18 M.) *Confreras* the train ascends rapidly along the mountain-side. Beyond (30 M.) *Ajusco* we pass through a great cut (magnificent retrospect) and reach the vast forest of the *Monte de Huiztilac*. At (39 M.) *La Cima* we begin the descent, enjoying numerous fine views. 47 M. *Tres Marias*. — 75 M. Cuernavaca is an interesting old town of (1895) 8554 inhab., with the Palace of Cortez (now the police-station), a church of 1529 (with an old clock given to Cortez by Charles IV.), and the beautiful garden of *La Borda*.

Other excursions by railway may be made to *Texcoco* (25 M.; Inter-oceanic Railway) on the site of the ancient city of the Chichimecs, with Aztec remains; to *Toluca* (see p. 539); to *Orizaba*, *Cordoba*, or *Paso del Macho* (see pp. 551, 552); to *San Juan Teotihuacan* (p. 550); to *Puebla* (p. 550); to *Oaxaca* (p. 551), etc.

From Mexico to *El Paso*, see R. 109; to *Laredo*, see R. 107 to *Eagle Pass*, see R. 108; to *Vera Cruz*, see R. 111.

## 111. From the City of Mexico to Vera Cruz..

263 M. MEXICAN RAILWAY (*Ferrocarril Mexicano*) in 11½ hrs. (fare about \$12-14). Only 33 lbs. of luggage are allowed free on this railway.

Visitors to Mexico should at least make a trip over this railway as far as Orizaba or Paso del Macho for the sake of the magnificent scenery in the descent from the Mexican Plateau to the coast-level. Views to the right.

*City of Mexico*, see p. 545. The train ascends to the N. and N.E., passing the new *Custom House* (right), *Guadalupe* (p. 548; left), and *Lake Texcoco* (right), and farther on crosses immense plantations of 'maguey' (see p. 545). Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl are seen to the S. — 27 M. *San Juan Teotihuacan*, with two interesting 'Teocallis', or pyramids, dedicated to the Sun and Moon and believed to antedate the Toltecs (seen to the left, about 2 M. from the railway). The former is 180 ft. high, with a base measuring 680 ft.; the other is smaller. — 34 M. *Otumba* was the scene of a crucial battle between the Spaniards and Aztecs (July 8th, 1520). 48 M. *Irolo* (8045 ft.) and (57 M.) *Apam* are two of the chief centres of the trade in 'pulque' (p. 545). Beyond Apam we pass from the *State of Hidalgo* to that of *Tlaxcala*. Near (77 M.) *Guadalupe* (8330 ft.) Mt. Orizaba and the Malintzi are visible to the S.E. — 86 M. *Apizaco* (Rail. Restaurant) is the junction of a branch-line to Puebla.

FROM APIZACO TO PUEBLA, 30 M., railway in 1½ hr. — Good views are obtained of the *Malintzi* (13,460 ft., left) and, in clear weather, of Popocatepetl, Ixtaccihuatl, and Orizaba. From (10 M.) *Santa Ana* we may make an excursion by tramway to (5 M.) the ancient city of *Tlaxcala*, with interesting churches, relics of Cortez and other early Spaniards (in the Casa Municipal), etc. — Beyond (23 M.) *Panzacola* the pyramid of *Cholula* (see below) is seen to the right.

30 M. Puebla (7200 ft.; *Diligencias, Universal*, \$2; U. S. Con. Agent, *Mr. James R. Hardy*), the capital of the state of the same name, with (1895) 91,917 inhab., was founded in 1531 and is one of the most attractive cities in the country. The use of glazed and coloured tiles in external and internal decoration is a characteristic feature. Its most interesting products for tourists are the articles made of Mexican onyx, baskets and mats of coloured straw, and pottery. The *CATHEDRAL*, dating from the middle of the 17th cent., with later additions, is scarcely inferior to that of Mexico in size and importance, while its interior is more richly decorated. It is in the Spanish Renaissance style, with a central dome, barrel vaulting, and two lofty towers (view). Among the points of interest in the interior are the onyx decorations, the marquetry work, the paintings, the tapestry, the altars, and the organ-cases. — Other interesting churches are those of *San Francisco*, *La Compania*, and *Nuestra Señora del Carmen*. — Near the railway station is a large new *Penitentiary*. — The *Paseo* along the *Rio Atoyac* affords a pleasant walk. — A visit should be paid to *Fort Guadalupe*, on the hill where took place the famous battle of the Cinco de Mayo (1862). The fort commands a splendid *View*, including Mts. Popocatepetl, Ixtaccihuatl, Orizaba, and Malintzi.

About 8 M. to the W. of Puebla (railway) is *Cholula* (6910 ft.; 5000 inhab.), with some interesting churches and the famous *Pyramid of Cholula*, an artificial mound of sun-dried brick and clay, 204 ft. high, with a base about 1000 ft. square (approximately). It is built in terraces, three of which are distinctly recognizable. The top, consisting of a platform 165 ft. square, crowned by the *Church of the Virgin de los Remedios*, is reached by a winding stone-paved road, ending in a flight of steps. The *View* is very fine. The construction of the pyramid is ascribed to the Olmecs or Toltecs, but its date and purpose are obscure.