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DAVIDSON & SILLIMAN.

DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

Advertising Medium of the
Stockman's Paradise.

SUBSCRIPTION \$2 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.
Entered at the Postoffice at Sonora,
as second-class matter.

MIKE MURPHY, Proprietor.

SONORA, TEXAS, March 28, 1891.

Frank W. Jackson Seeing the
Sights in Mexico.

PUBLISHED MONDAY, 2, 1891.

Ed. DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS:

Soon after arriving at the City of Mexico, we met a small party coming to this place, which being one of importance we joined the van for sight seeing.

Twenty-seven miles out from Mexico we passed the village of Teotihuacan, near which is one of the most interesting spots in all Mexico, the sacred city of the Toltecs, wrapped in a prehistoric age, ruined and buried, over which two great pyramids keep their silent watch. The ruins of the city extend for more than a league in radius, the evidence being that all structures were substantially built of stone and brick. The pyramids keep their silent watch. The pyramid of the Sun being the larger, is 217 feet high, with a rectangular base of 760 feet by 720 feet. The platform on top is 59 feet by 105 feet. The other is known as the pyramid of the moon, and is 150 feet high with a base of 511 by 426 feet, the crowning platform being 20 feet square. The only entrance as yet known is 65 feet from the ground on the southern face of the pyramid of the Moon. This is the beginning of a narrow descending gallery which leads to a deep well, the sides of which are made of squared stone. Beyond this it has not been explored. The pyramid of the Sun has never been entered. They are made of huge blocks of volcanic stone, and the means of handling such great weights at that time are yet unknown. The two pyramids are united by a straight street known as the "Road of the Dead," parallel with which on both sides are terraces made of cement, clay and lava, faced with a layer of plaster, lightly polished and painted red and white. All around there are mounds of ruined and buried houses. The rubbish from one of the large mounds being removed, there was revealed almost a palace with various rooms and two large halls. The interior of some of the houses appeared to have actually been filled in and packed with stones and dirt. The excavations revealed walls highly polished, and painted with as many as twenty different tints. The buildings are made of stone and mortar, contain from six to twelve rooms, the roof being made from a kind of cement, and although flat, they sustain great weights to this day. The city was supplied with water by stone aqueducts laid underground.

The pyramids are considered temples, erected to Toltec divinities, and consist of five terraces each, diminishing in size, and mounted by a zig-zag stairway, leading to the shrine on the summit, which contained the idols to whom worship was rendered. The surface of the pyramids is decorated by frescoes representing historical and religious events.

Near the pyramid of the Moon is an immense monolithic statue representing the figure of a woman. The excavations indicate the city to have been possessed at different times by different civilizations. First the Toltec, with decorated stone buildings and black pottery, nicely glazed and of beautiful and various forms. No warlike weapons; being men of peace, they offered as sacrifice to their gods the flowers, fruits and other products of the earth. Then the Aztec with adobe or mud houses inferior pottery and warlike weapons; as sacrifice to their gods they offered the throbbing hearts of human victims.

At Cholula, near Puebla there is another pyramid somewhat similar to the above. When the Spaniards first came they threw down the temple which they found upon

its summit, and erected a Christian temple instead; at a latter time this was replaced by the handsome church of the present day with two towers and a large dome.

It is thought possible by some that the above mentioned pyramids were erected by a race even anterior to the Toltecs. These monuments of the past, the buried cities of Tacatan, overgrown with forests at the coming of the Spaniard, another ruined city in the state of Oajaca, Mexico, the monuments in Arizona, and the Cliff houses of Colorado and New Mexico, all point to a prehistoric age of which little or nothing is known. The designs in the idols and the pottery and the customs of the aborigines of this country are all strongly suggestive of the primitive civilization of the old world. Previous to the conquest there existed among them a tradition, that at one time, there appeared among men a man of white skin, who preached a pure morality and an otherwise high standard of religion. There is in Mexico a mystery separating the unknown from the known.

Railroads afford convenient travel to all parts of the land. The field is broad and open. No country affords greater inducements to the science of archaeology. She invites the student of the past the tourist of the present; and it is hoped that at no distant day, the solution of the mysteries will begin, and that that which we now see as through a glass darkly, will appear as but the light of day.

But let us return from the dead city of the past and discuss one of the living present, known as Puebla de los Angeles, the City of Angels, which has a population of 70,000 inhabitants and an elevation of over 7,000 feet above the sea. It was founded in 1532, and was intended as a half way or resting place between the coast and the City of Mexico, which, by the old trail and coach road is 325 miles from Vera Cruz.

The duty of locating the town devolved upon a bishop, who being much in doubt, dreamed one night that he saw angels laying off a town in a beautiful valley traversed by sparkling streams and situated between great mountains, covered with perpetual snow. He went in quest of this spot, and according to the vision, framed the present site of the town, and hence its name, the City of Angels. It has extensive factories of cotton cloth, pottery and glassware, and the usual complement of pretty plazas and parks with an occasional elegant and massive stone fountain. One striking feature of all Mexico, and especially Puebla, is the elaborate use of richly colored tiling, in decorating not only the domes and outer and inner walls of churches, but even of private dwellings. There are found here many colleges, schools, charitable institutions, academy of fine arts, public libraries and State museum. Puebla, be it remembered, is the capital of a state of that name and has all the incidents of a large city.

The cathedral stands out boldly from the surrounding buildings on an elevated stone terrace, with two lofty towers and a dome, the main entrance being surmounted by the mouldings, in stone and white marble, one tower containing eight bells. The building is 323 feet long and 101 feet wide, with a general interior height of 80 feet. The massive door-ways are of beautifully carved wood. The aisles are divided off by great columns, and the floor is laid in colored marbles. This is the finest Cathedral in Mexico in its interior adornments, a description of which we could not even attempt. The high altar alone was finished in 1819 at a cost of \$110,000. It is composed of a great variety of Mexican marbles, prominent among which is the beautiful onyx found near Puebla, and for which she is celebrated. The two great organs are incased in richly carved wood. Between the choir and the altar is the pulpit and sounding-board which are carved in onyx. Outside of the aisles are the different chapels, each enclosed by a gilded iron railing, which rises about 70 feet, the full length of the arch.

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SONORA, - TEXAS.

Of the many, many paintings of sacred history throughout the building, none are inferior, while quite a number are from the best masters. Everything about the building is scrupulously clean. It was consecrated in 1649 and its decoration has had a growth from then till now.

Near the city there is a commanding hill, which is famous in Mexican history. It was once occupied by the church of Guadalupe. In 1862, during the French intervention, Gen. Zaragoza took possession of the hill with 2000 Mexicans, and cutting down the walls of the church conveyed it into a fort, then being assisted by 2000 men in the city, he brilliantly repulsed the vigorous attack of the French, 6000 strong. Not a great battle, except that it is considered a turning point in Mexico's struggle for independence. Four years later, the French being in possession of the hill, Gen. Diaz made a brilliant attack upon the fort, and carried it by storm. A church, the scene of two bloody battles! About the ancient sanctuary, there lay two old cannon and other insignia of death; a strange anomaly between religion and war, the salvation and destruction of man.

In addition to the above battles, Puebla was captured by the first Mexican Emperor, Iturbide in 1821, and was occupied by Scott, without opposition in 1847. The city stands on an elevated plateau, at the head of a great canon, which leads in the direction of Vera Cruz; up this canon runs the ancient trail, which was followed by Cortes in his march from the sea to fields of conquest. The position commands the ascent to the great table lands, and though over a hundred miles away in military parlance, it is the way to the city of Mexico.

But before we leave it, let us ascend the tower of the cathedral and behold what is called "one of the great views of the world," the Bishops dream. Beneath you is a large city with its plazas and parks and massive stone fountains, immense buildings of Moorish design, strongly suggestive of the Alhambra, domes and roofs of many colored tiling, representing the rays of the sun; two great amphitheaters, not the field of the Roman athlete, but of the Spanish bull-fighter; on a neighboring hill is the anomalous Fort and Church of Guadalupe, before you stretches out a broad plain, dotted with haciendas; eight miles in the distance is the prehistoric Pyramid of Cholula, surmounted by its holy shrine; just beyond with no intervening foot-hill, side by side,

are the volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Ixtacciuatl, as ever, covered with snow, a little further to the right, you see the peak of Malintzi, just below the snow line, yet beautiful in its contour; a little further round is the third snow-clad mountain, Orizaba, over 17,000 feet above the sea, its head above the clouds. At such a latitude, a clear, pure atmosphere envelopes all, and as everything catches the golden hues of the setting sun, a strange feeling possesses you, your veins tingle with delight, enchanted you stand, till aroused by the falling sun, as a dark mantle settles over the scene.

FRANK W. JACKSON.

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