



THE VEGA CANAL, MEXICO.

The Spaniards held possession for three hundred years, 1521 to 1821. The most striking evidence of their occupation is a splendid cathedral, a majestic structure, one of the largest in existence, founded in 1573, under the auspices of Charles V. The interior is rich and gorgeous with gold and silver and jewels of immense value. The palace of the Montezumas gave place to the palace of Cortes, which was the residence of many viceroys.

On our arrival in Mexico we were met at the station by Mr. Jack Hunt, son of the late Rev. John Hunt, of Canada. Mr. Hunt has made himself familiar with the Spanish language, and was our guide, philosopher, and friend in tours through the republic. He represents the firm of Firstbrook Brothers, of Toronto, who have a large business in Mexico, and is a very young man to have charge of so important affairs. Mr. Hunt enjoyed the distinction of being probably the youngest official member of any Methodist Quarterly

Board in the world. Before he had reached his seventeenth birthday he was elected to that position in the Methodist Episcopal church founded in the city of Mexico by Dr. William Butler, whose son, Dr. John Butler, is superintendent of Methodist Missions throughout the republic.

Mexico is a city of remarkable contrasts, of magnificence and dilapidation, of splendour and poverty. Nowhere will one see more sumptuous carriages, well-groomed horses, stately coachmen, and elegantly-dressed ladies than those which every afternoon from five to seven parade up and down the Pasco de la Reforma, a sort of Champs Elysees, of nearly three miles, through an avenue of tall eucalyptus and other trees.

At the end of this avenue is the Chapultepec, or the palace of the President. It occupies a magnificent position on the summit of a high ridge, not unlike the Castle Rock at Edinburgh. Around its base is a noble park, containing