

tal. It is a well built city situated on the Potomac; its principal ornament is the capitol.

14. *New York*, population 943,000, is the largest city in America, and one of the most commercial cities in the world.—*Philadelphia*, 674,000. There are about twelve other cities whose population is more than 100,000.

LESSON XXXI

MEXICO.

Area: 668,000 sq. m.—*Pop.*: 8,744,000.

1. **Mexico** lies south of the United States, between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.

2. Mexico is traversed by the Sierra Madre (Mother Range), which forms a plateau so level and extensive that a wheel-carriage can be driven along it without obstacle, for 1400 miles.

3. Between Puebla and the City of Mexico are the volcanoes Popocatepetl and Istaccihualt. The former is more than 17,000 feet high.

4. Its *climate* is hot and unhealthy on the coast and temperate in the elevated regions.

5. Its *population* is composed of the descendants of Spaniards (called *creoles*), of Negroes, Indians, and Mestizos.

6. Its *government* is Republican. The *religion*, Roman Catholic. This country formerly belonged to Spain; but became independent in 1821. It is in an unsettled condition ever since.

7. Its *products* are wheat, barley, oats, in the temperate regions; tropical fruits are produced in the hot regions.

8. *Industry* and *Commerce* are paralyzed by anarchy, brigandage, and also by want of facilities of communication.

9. *Mexico*, population 205,000, the capital, is situated near Lake Tezcuco, on an elevation of 8,000 ft.

LESSON XXXII.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Area: 213,000 sq. m.—*Population*: 2,891,500

1. **Central America** connects the two American Continents. It is situated between Mexico and the Isthmus of Panama. The Sierra Madre traverses it from one extremity to the other.



SUGAR CANE

2. The States comprised in this country are five viz: *Guatemala*, *San Salvador*, *Honduras*, *Nicaragua*, and *Costa Rica*. They form independent republics having a military form of government. *British Honduras*, or *Belize*, belongs to Great Britain.

3. The Sierra Madre traverses it from one extremity to the other. It has a variety of *climates*.

4. The Riv. San Juan, north of Costa Rica, connects Lake Nicaragua with the Caribbean Sea.

5. Two-thirds of the *population* are Indians and Metis; the rest are Whites and Negroes. The *religion* is Roman Catholic.

6. The *products* are the same as those of Mexico. Mahogany and logwood are largely exported. The Isthmus of Panama is crossed by a railroad, from Aspinwall to Panama. This is the great thoroughfare for American commerce, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.