

supply the country and receive silver in exchange : this is smuggled as the law forbids its export.

As we were leaving this port a brig came in bringing news which verified our worst fears about the «Golden Gate,» the vessel had taken fire and burnt to the waters edge. One hundred and sixty passengers perished, and the rest were scattered along the coast destitute. We turned back to render assistance to the saved. I found one Canadian from St. Catharines, a nephew of the late Mr. Lepper, he gave the most delightful account of the inhabitants of Mexico ; they had found him and others furnished on the shore, they took them to their houses in the interior, fed them, clothed them, mounted them on horses, and brought them safely over the mountain to Manzanilla, the nearest port. Lepper got two suits and we got him \$20 : he went on with us, to return by the «Sonora» to Canada.

It may be well to state here that Mexico has 7 millions of inhabitants : 3 fifths are natives, the other Spaniards and Spanish Creols ; only about 5,000 Europeans or Americans in the country in all.—Since 1823, they have had above 36 different Governments, and if the nominee of a foreign government, a Scion of the House of Hapsburg expects a peaceful possession he will be grievously disappointed.

On the 10th day after leaving Panama we passed the mouth of the gulf of California, an inlet 600 miles deep and 150 miles wide, famous for its pearl fisheries, the method and history of which would form a lecture.

Early in the morning of the 14th day going along a bold rocky coast we saw a square, clear opening about a mile wide between gates of solid stone, this, we were told was the celebrated «Golden Gate,» about a mile and a half from its mouth an island lay right across the Channel called the Island of Alcatross, closing the sea out from the Bay of San Francisco into which we now entered, the largest, most perfect and splendid harbour in the world, in which all the navies of the world might ride at anchor in safety and not be crowded—for this matchless bay is forty miles wide.

There are two cities, that on the left is Benicia, and that on