

pass. Accapulco is distinguished by being the old site of a city swallowed up by an earthquake, and the present fort having stood a siege by Santa Anna; finding the enemy gaining upon them the besieged quietly withdrew, leaving neither food nor ammunition, consequently the victorious invaders were soon forced to abandon the position.

The Pacific steamers always coal at Accapulco, a large vessel being stationed here with supplies. This is also the point of exit for travellers from the city of Mexico, only six days journey to the eastward, on the direct road to Vera Cruz on the Gulf of Mexico.

Here I met Mr. Bonar, of Quebec, and a Captain Palmer whom I knew, they had just travelled through Mexico; the former had become a favorite mining engineer, was employed by an English Company, and was making a fortune out of the silver mines. The trade of this place is shells, baskets, oranges, cotton, hides, and coffee, and English vessels do a good business. The great amusement is diving, the water being wonderfully clear, and the native boys equal to the Indian pearl fishers. The traveller throws York shillings into the sea, the boys allow them to go perhaps half a minute, and then down, and I never knew one diver but came up with the shilling in his teeth. The pots used for cooking are made of earth, the mills for grinding corn are two stones worked by hand, and the habits of the people are primitive in the extreme. Yet here in this Spanish Catholic town I saw one of the best schools I ever entered. One hundred and sixty boys from ten to sixteen years of age, all of whom wrote the most beautiful text hand, and all just alike as if it were lithograph; the master was a perfect Spanish gentleman. I called on the priest, a plain pleasant man, but who like most others there, though not allowed to marry, had a family he acknowledged and provided for.

Here we expected to have met the steamer "Golden Gate" on her down trip, and great anxiety was caused by her non-appearance; we proceeded, however, along the coast to Mazanilla, another commercial harbour where English ships bring goods to