

the trees by the force of the falling rain, and the water was still rushing in great streams down the streets of the city.

We had all got a slight attack of Panama fever from the exposure, and from having had the wet clothes on us for such a long time, and were obliged to stay indoors for two days after; but our rooms were very pleasant, so we got along pretty well under the circumstances. The day after our recovery, we had a ride on mule-back some miles into the country. The mules had on gorgeous Mexican saddles, which reached almost to the ground, and were very vicious animals, especially the one Jack rode, which had a very disagreeable habit of rubbing itself against some trees every twenty yards or so, and all we could do to prevent it was of no avail; so Jack was obliged to lift his leg out of the way and let the mule rub itself till it was satisfied. My mule had a disagreeable way of lying down, without a moment's notice, in some muddy places on the road, and rolling about; but, notwithstanding these drawbacks, we had a glorious ride. The huge white umbrellas, which we carried, were almost superfluous—the boughs of the trees, on either side of the road, had interwoven overhead, forming a continuous arch, through which the sun but seldom penetrated. We had more leisure now to observe the many tropical trees and shrubs than we had hitherto had, and gathered a bouquet of flowers, alongside of which our brightest and rarest northern flowers would have looked insignificant. Now and then we met a native, driving a pack-mule before him, or a native woman carrying a large water-jug on her head. They would sing out a *Buena dia*, and extend their mouths from ear to ear.

The stinging flies were very troublesome, especially to the mules, who sometimes, goaded to desperation, would kick with their hind legs high into the air, whilst we clung to their necks, as though for dear life.

We lunched in a delightful little glen near a bubbling brook, and returned to town before nightfall. The following day we spent almost entirely on board the "*Malacca*," and in making preparations for our departure on the morrow.

At last the day arrived on which we were to leave Panama, and at noon the small tug "*Ancora*" took us and the passengers who had that morning arrived per steamer from New York, down the Bay to the steamer "*Constitution*," which would take us to Acapulco and San Francisco. We sailed late at night. Our life on the "*Constitution*" was very much the same as it had been on the "*Henry Chauncey*;" however, we did not suffer so much from the effects of the heat, as we had now become accustomed to it. We were almost continually within sight of shore, and were never tired of feasting our eyes on the magnificent mountain scenery on the coast of Central America and Mexico. Sometimes the mountains were many thousand feet high, looming almost perpendicularly out of the water, their base clothed in the thickest and loveliest verdure, which gradually grew more and more sparse towards the summit, till at last there was nothing left but a wild and rugged waste of rocks, amongst which light shadowy clouds were flitting. The mountains on the coast of the Mexican State of Oaxaca are particularly fine and imposing-looking; but, although we generally passed quite close in shore, we never saw a sign of life—not a hut—not a natives' canoe—not the smoke of fire,—the whole lovely scenery lay there in undisturbed quiet and repose. There are a few towns, of course, between Panama and Acapulco; but they are reached by long winding bays and rivers, and are not visible from the sea.

After a pleasant sail of a week, we arrived at Acapulco—one of the most important towns on the West coast of Mexico. The harbor is almost entirely landlocked by high hills overgrown with bristling cactus, banana and orange trees, and is extremely beautiful. The town lies picturesquely on the side of a very steep hill, and looks decidedly pleasant *from the distance*. The town played an important role during the French occupation of Mexico; and a battered and crumbling fort, opposite the entrance of the harbor, testifies the fury of the battles that were fought there. Immediately on anchoring, we were surrounded by a small fleet of boats, containing all kinds of tropical fruits, painted shells and