

A few miles north of the capital is the celebrated Nochistongo Cut, a great canal commenced in 1607, for the purpose of draining the Valley of Mexico. It varies in width from 280 to 630 feet, with a depth of from 150 to 196 feet. A fine view of this remarkable work may be had from the trains of the Mexican Central Railway.



CHAPULTEPEC, MEXICO.

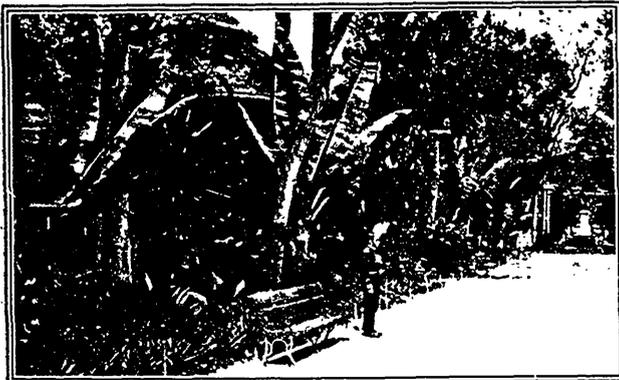
As we go south, on every side are well-cultivated fields and gardens, running streams, green meadows, large maguey plantations, and in the distance the gleam of the church spires and domes of the city, while still further beyond may be seen the snow-capped peaks of the extinct volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl.

The city of Mexico is the largest and most important in the republic. It was founded by the Aztecs toward the end of the thirteenth century, and conquered by the Spaniards in 1521, who retained possession three hundred years,

until September 27th, 1821, at which time Mexican independence was gained. The present population is about 350,000.

There are upwards of one hundred and twenty churches, the principal one in size and grandeur being the cathedral, with two lofty towers. There are many fine business houses and magnificent residences, the latter being built around "patios," or open court-yards, in which are flowers, palms, and fountains.

The city of Mexico, in its situation, its history, its antiquities, and its associations, is one of the most interesting in the world. When the long lines of glittering edifices of the Aztec city met the eyes of Cortes and his followers, "it looked," said Prescott, "like a thing of fairy creation rather than the work of mortal hands." It was nine miles in circumference, its dwellings num-



A MAGNIFICENT AVENUE NEAR THE PALACE, CHAPULTEPEC.