



CATHEDRAL, CITY OF MEXICO.

above the sea in a run of two hundred and sixty-three miles. Starting from the coffee plantations of the tropics, the traveller gradually ascends till he meets with the more familiar vegetation and flowers of the temperate zone. In a space of two miles, as the crow flies, the railway requires a run of thirteen miles. The same Indians who offer fruits for sale at the one station, take the foot-path and greet the passengers with a smile at the next. It is interesting to note that so rich are these Mexican hills as to produce one-third of the silver of the world.

Dr. Butler was much impressed by the politeness and courtesy of the Mexicans to strangers. As an illustration, the guide, in speaking of the flags captured by the Mexicans, after a hard fight, from the United States, in the war of 1847-48, spoke of them as "left by the American army."

Arriving in Mexico City, he was confronted with the difficulty of securing a suitable place to open his mission. Bigoted landlords were unwilling to rent to a heretic. Finally, a man owning a small house on a side street consented to let it for a sum large enough to purchase pardon for

his lapse from orthodoxy. Two rooms were thrown together to serve as a school-room and chapel. When we consider that at this time only three per cent. of the population of Mexico could read and write, we shall better understand something of the work before this mission. Said one of their political leaders about this time:

"My people are to-day in a far worse condition than they were when Cortez burned his ships behind him in the harbor of Vera Cruz and marched to the conquest of Montezuma's empire; worse fed, worse clad, worse housed and more ignorant than they were that day."

Humboldt wrote of them:

"I have seen them masked, and adorned with dangling bells, perform savage dances around the altar while a monk of St. Francis elevated the host."

The Abbe Domenech, chaplain of the French forces to Mexico, declared: "The Mexican is not a Catholic; he is simply a Christian because he is baptized. In all Spanish America there are among the priests the veriest wretches—men who make an infamous traffic of religion. One of the greatest evils in Mexico is the exorbitant fee