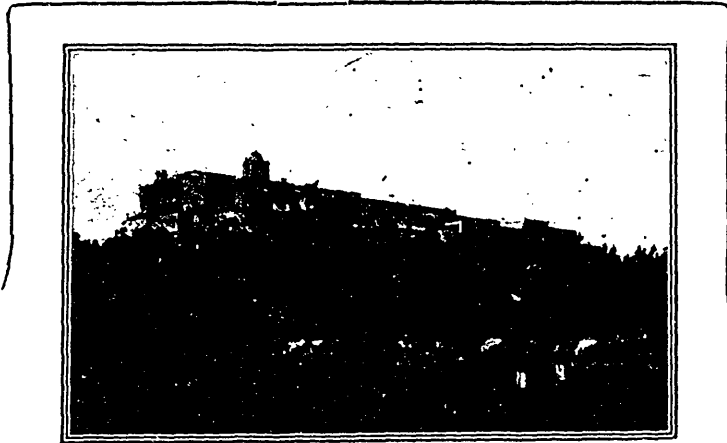


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METHODISM IN MEXICO.

BY MAUDE PETITT, B.A.



CHAPULTEPEC, MEXICO.



TO found a great mission in two hemispheres is a privilege seldom permitted to one man. Dr. Butler returned to America after the successful founding of the mission in India. But about 1873, when he was past fifty-four years of age, American Methodism listened to the cry of Mexico at her very threshold, and the veteran Indian pioneer was invited to again go forth and become the father of a mission. The aborigines of Mexico, as is well known, boasted a high degree of civilization, but in 1572 the Inquisition asserted its cruel sway over

the land. Spain, it will be remembered, entered Mexico in 1515, about a century before the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England, and it was not till 1821 that Mexico escaped from her bondage. Even then, for over thirty years, the hand of clerical despotism was hard upon the land. It is estimated that the Church at this time owned one-third of the real estate of the country. In the year 1857 the Indian president, Benito Juarez, drew up the famous Laws of Reform, known as the Magna Charta of Mexico. These laws guaranteed liberty of conscience and also sequestered the property of the Church, appropriating large portions of it for schools, hospitals, and libraries.