

## The Rockwood Review.

prophecy that within the first ten years of the coming century, this capital will attract the attention of the whole continent, and become as it ought, the resort of tourist and health seeker, student and capitalist. I am astonished and not a little ashamed to have wakened up at my age, to find how little I knew of the fifth city of my own continent. Here we have in our colony a gentleman's club and a woman's club composed of north-erners, and four or five churches with reverend teachers from the north. I went to church this morning for the first time since leaving Toronto, and heard English song-sters and an English Methodist preacher. We have too a Y. M. C. A. and a W. C. S. U., and a W. L. and an E. W., and incidentally many I. O. U.'s. The American colony is recruited mostly from 'Frisco, Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio, Omaha, Denver and St. Louis. The western dialect and swagger are in full and excellent form. Americans are found in Railway, Land, Insurance, News, Oil, Machinery and Printing Offices, and Canadians who are here, find themselves heartily welcomed by this American colony, and as individuals are always well received by Americans. Passing down the principal thoroughfares of the city, one meets Americans at every step. After dodging the American girl's wheel on the pavement, you meet her admiring mother on the sidewalk, talking to her sister from 'Frisco about an aunt just arrived from Omaha, and on stepping into the nearest office to prepare myself for the reception of all Uncle Sam's family, you find the gentleman himself, behind the desk selling bicycles, locomotives, gold mines, undeveloped states, steamships and gramophones.

Five or six different railroads centre in the capital, and while the Republic is already fairly well lined with these means of locomotion, the road development is increasing as it is nowhere in the north.

Remarkable it is that in a country already well cared for by the native population, and after having experienced wonderful improvement during a period of twenty years, there is still here an opportunity for capital and industry, unparalleled in any field open to the speculator to-day. Cuba is not and can never be an equal in resources to the Republic. There is no boom, but a steady advance. There is much wealth here, but there is still wealth to be made.

Go to the first twenty foreigners in any native city, or to twenty native Americans in their own city and enquire about the "times," and there reply is always one indicative of the hard struggle in the battle for existence. Hard time bugaboos have followed me all my life. But here, I have been brought by my occupation into close touch with some hundreds of Americans of all aims and conditions, and in each instance such inquiry met with but one answer: "Times are always good in Mexico. I am prospering, my neighbors are prospering, and to-morrow will be brighter than to-day. You will prosper likewise, stay with us." Such is the substance of the Mexican hard times story. Personally I have made more money since one month ago to-day than I ever did in my life, in toto, previously. Of course it is true that these Americans have acquired experience before coming here, which in many cases was bitter. To succeed here a man must have capital for mining or plantation work or some well digested scheme of his own. If he has any knowledge of Spanish, pluck and perseverance, I would advise him to come here, for he will be received with open arms and pocketbooks. If he hasn't Spanish, and wishes to make a good living in Mexico, he had better learn it, acquire some of the wisdom of modern American commerce, and then make his venture.