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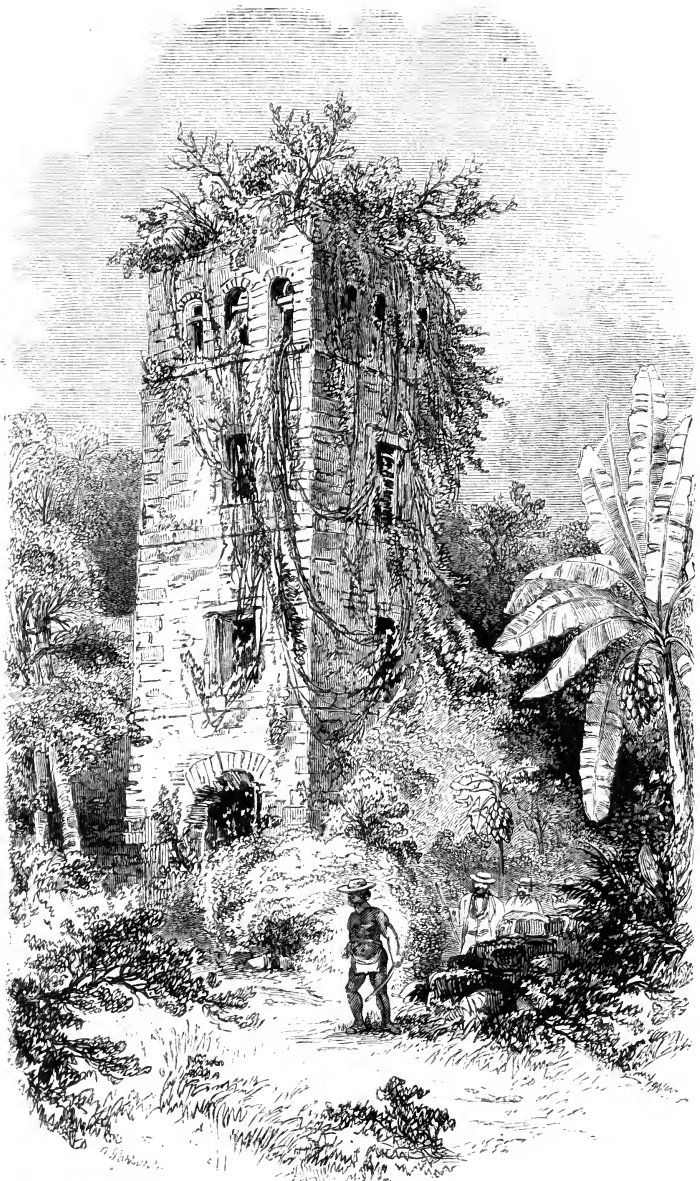
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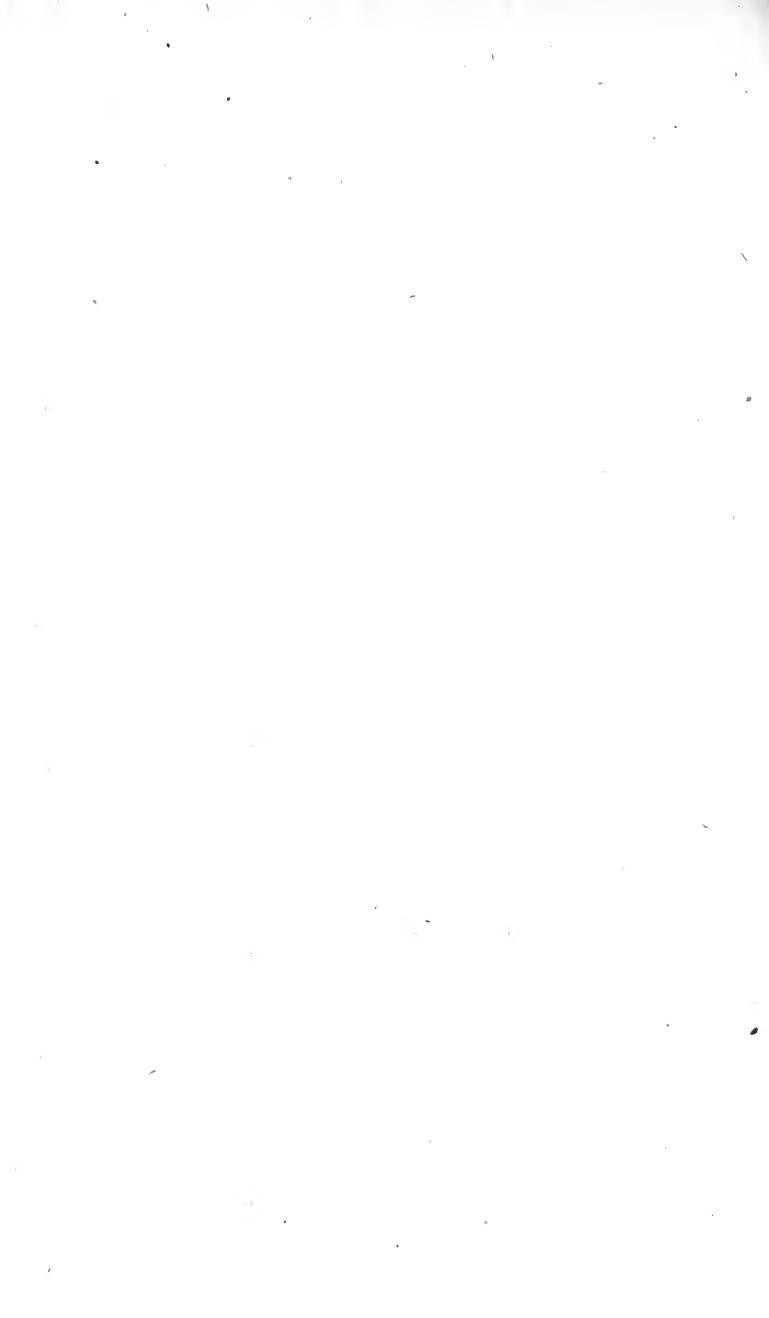
**JOSEPH W. ALSOP,**

**JOHN STEWARD,**

**DAVID HOADLEY.**



TOWER OF SAN JEROME.



BRIEF ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA,

CONNECTED WITH THE PANAMA RAILROAD BY THE  
STEAMERS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN LINE.

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THE course of the Panama Railroad Company's Central American steamers, for their upward voyages from Panama, is due south across the Bay of Panama to Point Mala, its western boundary; from thence, following the coast-line, within distinct view of the rugged mountain range which bounds it, a northwesterly course is pursued to San José de Guatemala, the terminus of the route.

The 1st port of entry is Punta Arenas, in the Republic of COSTA RICA, distant from Panama 450 miles.

The 2d port of entry is Realejo, in the Republic of NICARAGUA, distant from Panama 692 miles.

The 3d port of entry is La Union, in the Republic of SALVADOR, distant from Panama 762 miles.

The 4th port of entry is Libertad, in the Republic of SALVADOR, distant from Panama 862 miles.

The 5th port of entry is Acajutla, in the Republic of SALVADOR, distant from Panama 902 miles.

The 6th port of entry is San José de Guatemala, in the Republic of GUATEMALA, distant from Panama 966 miles.

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COSTA RICA.

THE Republic of Costa Rica, lying between  $8^{\circ} 30'$  and  $10^{\circ} 40'$  N. latitude, and  $82^{\circ}$  and  $85^{\circ}$  W. longitude, has an area of about 23,000 sq. miles. Population about 150,000,

composed of whites of Spanish descent, Indians, Negroes, and Mestizoes, the latter estimated at about one fifth of the whole. Costa Rica is politically divided into five departments, viz., San José, Cartago, Heredia, Alajuela, and Punta Arenas.

The prevailing religion is Roman Catholic. There are about 50 churches in the republic. Protestants are protected from molestation or annoyance on account of their religion by treaties with Great Britain and the United States. Its educational facilities consist of a University, with a government endowment of \$46,310, besides one fourth of the receipts of the tobacco monopoly; there are also reported about 80 primary schools in the republic.

The city of San José, the capital of the republic, is situated in the department of the same name, about midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, on a table-land 45,000 feet above their level. It is regularly laid out. The buildings are generally of one story, on account of the frequency of earthquakes. The University is located at San José; there are also a government palace, a hospital, a mint, a national bank, and several churches. The city is connected with Punta Arenas, the sea-port, by a cart-road 70 miles in length. On this road, five leagues from the capital, is the government custom-house, at a place called Garita del Rio Grande.

Punta Arenas, the only available sea-port of the Republic of Costa Rica, is situated on a small peninsula in the Gulf of Nicoya. This peninsula is a low sandy point a little more than four miles in length by from one fourth to a mile in breadth, its highest point about 16 feet above the level of the sea. Upon this the town is situated, and contains about 3000 inhabitants, one tenth of whom are Spanish, the remainder a mixed race of Spanish, Indian, and Negro.

The soil of Costa Rica is exceedingly productive. On

the "tierras calientes," or torrid lands, which run back from the Pacific up to an elevation of 3000 feet, almost all the tropical productions abound. Above these are the "tierras templadas," which are terraces making out from the main Cordilleras (following very nearly the longitudinal axis of the state in a northwest and southeast direction), and are from 3000 to 5000 feet above the level of the sea, producing sugar-cane, potatoes, corn, coffee, oranges, etc., etc., in great perfection.

Still above the tierras templadas are the tierras frias, or frigid lands, which are from 5000 to 6000 feet above the ocean level, among which several volcanoes shoot up, varying from 8000 to 11,000 feet in height. The forests, which extend over a large portion of the republic, abound in timber suitable for ship-building; also mahogany, Brazil, and various other valuable dye-woods.

The cultivated portion of Costa Rica lies principally within the valley of the Rio Grande, which flows down the western slope of the main mountain range into the Gulf of Nicoya. "Fully seven eighths of all the inhabitants are here concentrated, in a district not exceeding fifty miles in length by an average of twenty in breadth."

#### CLIMATE.

"The topographical features of the country indicate the variety of climate to be found in this state. In the district around the capital the thermometer generally ranges during the forenoon from 65° to 75° of Fahrenheit; from noon until 3 P.M., during the hottest season, sometimes as high as 82° Fahrenheit; during the night, at the coldest periods, never below 57°. Upon both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts the average mean temperature is, of course, much higher, but on the Pacific the thermometer seldom rises above 85° Fahrenheit. The seasons are well defined. On the Pacific the dry season lasts from November to April,

and the rainy from April to November. On the Atlantic slope these periods are nearly reversed. Here, too, a much larger amount of rain falls, and the climate is hot and insalubrious."\* The Pacific coast has, however, the reputation of being much more healthy, and the table-lands and upland valleys are, for a tropical country, said to be especially salubrious.

The mineral wealth of Costa Rica is almost wholly undeveloped. Mines of gold, copper, iron, lead, and coal have been discovered, but no intelligent efforts have as yet been made to ascertain their value.

The commercial products of Costa Rica are coffee, hides, dye-woods, sarsaparilla, tortoise-shell, pearl-shells, and mahogany. The principal of these, however, is coffee, which is of very fine quality, and scarcely second to the celebrated Mocha. The cultivation of this great staple was introduced in 1829. By 1845 about five millions of pounds were exported; in 1848, ten millions; and in 1850, fourteen millions. Up to the year 1856 the coffee was transported by a tedious and expensive voyage around Cape Horn to European markets. Since the establishment of the Central American Steam-ship Line, in connection with the Panama Railroad, much of the coffee-crop has been exported through this direct channel, and not a small portion has thereby found its way to the United States. Large quantities have been sent to Panama for reshipment on the Pacific mail steamers for the California market. The impetus given by greatly increased facilities and increased demands have, notwithstanding the disturbed political condition of the country, resulted in a growing increase in the number and extent of the coffee estates; and almost solely by means of its coffee trade, from one of the poorest, Costa Rica has become, relatively, one of the richest of the Central American states. The present export of coffee from Costa Rica yearly is estimated

\* Squier's Central America.

at over a million of dollars, and, with all its other exports combined, about \$1,350,000. Its imports, which are chiefly from Great Britain and the United States, present a total of about \$1,200,000 per annum. A bank of discount, deposit, and loans on real estate was established at the capital in 1858, and its notes are the legal currency of the republic. The specie currency is mostly made up of American half eagles, British sovereigns, and French Napoleons: the two former have a fixed value of \$5 25, the latter a conventional one of \$4 25. The silver currency of the country is the peso = \$1, the real =  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  reals.

#### HARBOR AND COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.

The harbor at Punta Arenas is separated into two anchorage grounds by the point of land on which the town is located. That between the town and the main land affords accommodation only to vessels under seven feet draught. Those drawing more anchor in the outer harbor, which is protected by two small islands lying to the westward. Goods from thence are brought by lighters to the landing-place in the inner harbor, a distance of about two miles, at a cost of about \$1 per ton.

##### *Port Charges for both National and Foreign Vessels.*

No anchorage or tonnage dues are imposed.

1. Quarantine fees, 75 cents for each foot of depth.
2. Clearance duty, \$3.
3. Hospital dues, 50 cents per head.

No fees are exacted for the landing of passengers or their baggage, and a free permit is granted except when the latter exceeds 2 cwt., when all above that weight is subject to inspection.

All foreign merchandise in packages, when landed, is required to be deposited in the public warehouses for the purpose of registry; and, after being duly entered, may again be withdrawn, the party interested presenting the required certificates. The charge made for the above is 1 real ( $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents) on each gross cwt.

Merchandise may be deposited on storage for any length of time on pay-



ment of  $\frac{1}{2}$  real ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  cents) per month per cwt. ; subject, however, to existing laws.

Open articles of merchandise, such as iron in bars and unpacked goods, are exempt from registry.

Light-house dues are  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cents per ton.

Any vessel, whether foreign or national, may compromise the hospital and light-house dues for \$25 annually, paid in advance.

Municipal and bridge tolls (intended for turnpikes),  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents for each quintal (of 101 pounds).

A fine of \$25 is imposed for violation of any one of the above regulations.

There is, besides, a heavy penalty for sealing in packages of powder or tobacco in quantities over 2 cwt.

### CUSTOM-HOUSE REGULATIONS OF COSTA RICA (1857).

#### FREE LIST.

1st. All printed books for instruction or entertainment, if not in opposition to religion and morals ; all periodicals and papers.

2d. Foreign music and musical instruments.

3d. Foreign seeds and plants.

4th. Gold and silver in coins and dust.

5th. All kinds of complete machines, and iron wheels with teeth.

6th. Quicksilver, stone coal, pack-thread, empty sacks or sacking materials.

7th. Instruments of art and science.

8th. All kinds of carriages, coaches, cars, etc.

#### PROHIBITED LIST.

##### *Imports.*

1st. Tobacco in leaf or manufactured.

2d. All spirits of molasses or rum, such as is manufactured in Costa Rica ; all books and other things offending public morals ; eatables of spoiled or bad quality ; fire-arms and munitions of war, if not ordered by government.

By a decree bearing date September 21st, 1857, all foreign spirits are placed upon the same footing as gunpowder, rum, and tobacco, which are contraband except when imported on account of the government.

The authorities are required to prosecute and punish those who sell liquor clandestinely, and without previous permission.

The government will cause to be procured, on account of the state, all the various kinds of foreign spirits in common use, in order that the same may be expended in such public places as shall be instituted for this purpose, and the proprietors of hotels and restaurants will purchase at wholesale in those places for the supply of their establishments.

*Exports.*

Tobacco in leaves or stems, unless by especial permit.

Gold in coin pays at exportation 2 per cent. ad valorem; in ingots, dust, or jewelry, 4 per cent. ad valorem; silver in coin, 8 per cent. ad valorem.\*

Coffee pays export duty  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents on 101 pounds, duty paid in 3, 6, or 9 months, according to amount.

All vessels arriving at Punta Arenas having any prohibited articles on board are required to deposit them in a government store-house at a cost of \$2 per month for each cwt. (although they may be destined for other ports), or to leave the port within twelve hours.

*Coins and Weights.*

*Coins.*—1 peso fuerte, \$1; 1 real,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents.

*Weights.*—1 quintal = 4 arrobas =  $101\frac{44}{100}$  lbs.; 1 arroba = 25 lbs. 7 oz.; 1 libra =  $1\frac{014}{1000}$  lb.; 1 onza = 1 oz.

*Measure.*—1 vara,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Tariff on Articles received in Costa Rica from the United States.*

Denomination of Merchandise.	Number, Weight, or Measure.	Rate of Duty.
Bread, ship.....	1.014 lb.	\$0 03
Brandy in bottles.....	of sugar-cane,	prohibited.
“ “ barrels.....	1.014 gall.	11
Candles, tallow.....	1.014 lb.	02
“ stearine.....	“	03
Cider.....	in bbls. of 101 lbs.	1 00
Copper, manufactures of.....	101 lbs.	(stills) 10 00
Cotton goods, white.....	1.014 lb.	07
“ “ colored.....	“	08
Cheese.....	“	04
Cloths and cassimeres, fine.....	“	25
Fish in oil.....	101 lbs.	2 00
Flour.....		free.
Gold and silver coin.....		“
Glass, window.....	101 lbs.	1 50
Hides and skins.....		not defined.
Indigo.....	1.014 lb.	03 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork, salt.....	101 lbs.	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Printing-presses.....		free.
Paper, writing.....	101 lbs.	3 00
Rice.....		not defined.
Soap, common.....	1.014 lb.	02
Silk, raw.....	“	20
Shoes, calf-skin, for men.....	“	25
“ patent-leather.....	“	25
Sheathing, metal.....	“	06
Spirits in casks.....	see Brandy.	
Teas.....	101 lbs.	2 00

\* A recent act is reported abolishing the export duties upon gold and silver in coin or bullion, and jewels.

Denomination of Merchandise.	Number, Weight, or Measure.	Rate of Duty.
Tobacco, unmanufactured.....	} prohibited.	
“ manufactured.....		
Tin, crude.....	101 lbs.	\$2 00
Wines in casks.....	“	2 00
Wood, manufactured as furniture....	“	5 00

*Price Current of Commodities exported to the United States.*

Coffee, per cwt., \$8 to \$10.	} Hides, dry, per cwt., \$6 50 to \$7. Turtle-shell, per lb., \$4 50 Old copper, per cwt. \$15.
Lumber, cedar and mahogany, per M. ft., \$45 to \$50.	
Sarsaparilla, per cwt., \$14.	

Freight to Atlantic States, \$25 per ton; California, \$20; Lumber to California, \$10 to \$12 per ton. Terms: Cash on delivery.

*Rates of Wages.*

Clerks, \$500 per annum; engineers, \$1000 to \$1500; wheelwrights, \$5 per day; carpenters, \$3 50; blacksmiths, \$2 to \$3 per day; seamen, \$25 per month.

## NICARAGUA.

THE Republic of Nicaragua has the states of Honduras and Salvador on the north, and Costa Rica on the south, the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Caribbean Sea on the east, and lies between 83° 20' and 87° 30' west longitude, and 9° 45' and 15° north latitude, embracing an area of about 48,000 square miles, and is estimated to contain a population of 300,000 souls:\*

Whites.....	30,000
Negroes.....	18,000
Civilized Indians.....	96,000
Mestizoes.....	156,000

This republic, like Costa Rica, is divided administrative-ly into five departments:

\* The last census, however, taken in 1846, shows only 257,000; but it fell short of the true number, as the people feared it a preliminary step to taxation or conscription.

	Population.
The Oriental (census of 1846).....	95,000
“ Occidental.....	90,000
“ Meridional .....	20,000
“ Septentrional of Matagalpa.....	40,000
“ “ Segovia.....	12,000

The prevailing religion is Roman Catholic, although all other religious denominations receive the protection of the government.

The educational interests are at a very low ebb. There are reported two universities, one of which has a library of 15,000 volumes. Their course of instruction is said to be extremely defective. The expenses are paid partly by old endowments, and partly by a fee of \$12 from each pupil. Besides the universities there are sixty primary schools, with a total of 2800 pupils, and five schools for females in the entire republic.

Its chief city and capital (though not invariably the seat of government) is Leon, in the Occidental department, about a day's journey from Realejo, the Pacific sea-port of the republic. It was, under the ancient Spanish rule, one of the finest cities of Central America, but has greatly declined, though many marks of its former estate remain. It is regularly laid out, the houses usually of one story. The public edifices are numerous and imposing: the great Cathedral of St. Peter covers an entire square, and is said to have cost \$5,000,000; besides this there are sixteen churches, two hospitals, and a University. Population about 35,000. The capitals of the different departments are,

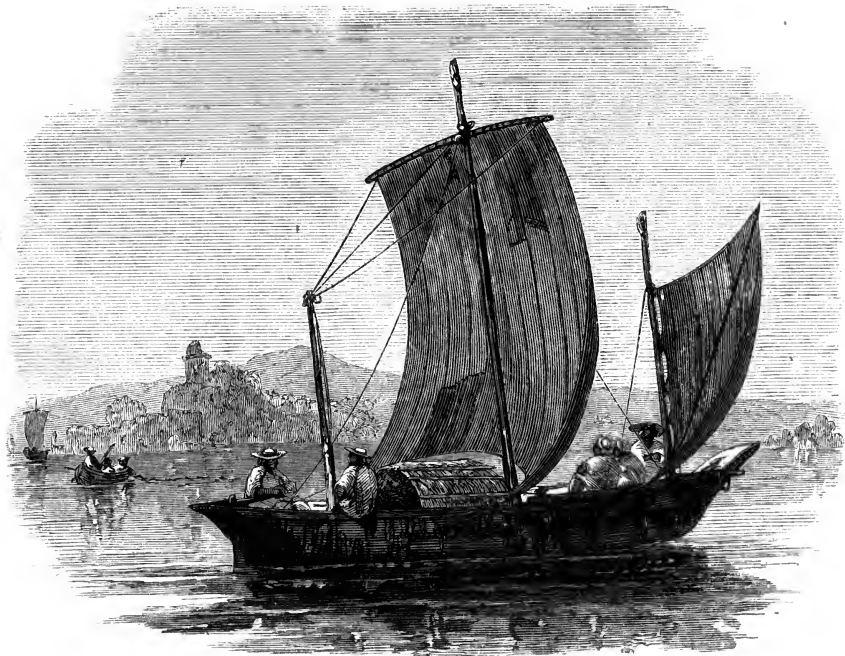
	Population.	
Rivas, in the Meridional department (census of 1846).....	20,000	
Granada, in the Oriental “ .....	10,000	
Matagalpa, in the Septentrional of Matagalpa.....	2,000	
Segovia, in the Septentrional of Segovia .....	8,000	
Other considerable towns	Massagua.....	15,000
	Managua.....	12,000
	Granada.....	10,000
	Chinandega.....	11,000
	Realejo .....	1,200

Realejo, the principal sea-port town, is situated at the head of an estuary about three miles from the harbor of the same name; the low and swampy coast-lands prevented its establishment at a nearer point. It contains about 1200 inhabitants. The transportation between the harbor and the town is by bongoes and canoes.

#### TOPOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE, AND NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

The northeastern portion of the republic is mountainous in its character, with a climate of the temperate zone. It abounds in mines of gold, silver, copper, iron, and lead. Precious stones, such as the opal and jasper, have been discovered; also extensive beds of anthracite coal. None of these deposits have yet been effectively worked, on account of the ignorance and indolence of the inhabitants. The great Sierra Madre range (bristling with high volcanic peaks, several of which are active) passes through the western portion of the republic; it is broken, however, by a broad valley, 300 miles in length by 150 in width, which contains the Lakes of Managua and Nicaragua, the latter well known as traversed by the old San Juan transit-route in former times. This valley is made up of fertile slopes, beautiful and productive plains, well adapted to agricultural and grazing purposes, and contains within its limits the chief cities and the greater portion of the inhabitants of the republic. It has a tropical climate. The seasons are divided into the wet and dry, the wet embracing the months from May to November, and the dry the remaining part of the year. The temperature is equable, seldom rising above 90°, or falling below 74°.

The soil is admirably adapted to the growth of all the great staples of the tropics. Indigo, sugar, cacao, tobacco, rice, coffee, cotton, etc., may all be successfully grown, but ignorance, indolence, and political disturbance have so



NATIVE BONGO, PANAMA.



dwarfed the agricultural interests of the republic that at present few articles are raised in amount beyond the immediate necessities of the people. The chief exports are indigo, sugar, cotton, hides, dye-woods, and bullion; small quantities of sarsaparilla, cacao, ginger, gum acacia, gum copal, and caoutchouc are also exported. Crude sulphur is obtained in considerable quantities from the vicinity of the volcanoes, also nitre and sulphate of iron; but the entire exports of the republic do not exceed one million of dollars annually.

The imports in manufactured goods and liquors amount to about half that sum.

From Great Britain are imported calicoes and other manufactured cottons, hardware, lead, gunpowder, etc., etc.; and from the United States, soap, candles, hardware, brandy, gunpowder, etc.

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## SAN SALVADOR.

THE Republic of San Salvador has Guatemala on the north and west, and Honduras on the east. It is separated from Nicaragua on the southeast by the Bay of Conchagua. It lies between  $13^{\circ}$  and  $14^{\circ} 10'$  north latitude, and  $87^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$  west longitude, embracing an area of about 9600 square miles, and is estimated to contain 294,000 inhabitants—Spanish whites, Indians, and mixed races. It is divided into eight departments:

Departments.	Capitals.	Population.
San Miguel .....	San Miguel.....	80,000
San Vicente .....	San Vicente.....	56,000
La Paz.....	Sacatecoluca.....	28,000
Chalaltenango .....	Chalaltenango } .....	75,000
Suchitoto.....	Suchitoto .....	
San Salvador.....	San Salvador.....	80,000
Sonsonate .....	Sonsonate } .....	75,000
Santa Ana .....	Santa Ana } .....	



The capital of the republic is San Salvador, situated about twenty-two miles from the port of La Libertad, on the Pacific coast. Formerly it contained about 25,000 inhabitants, having eight or ten fine church edifices, a flourishing University, a female seminary, several hospitals, and the buildings of the general government, and was a place of considerable trade; but in 1854 it was almost totally destroyed by an earthquake, when it was deserted by many of its inhabitants, and the seat of government transferred to Cojutepeque, twelve leagues distant. San Salvador is now in process of rebuilding, its inhabitants having mostly returned, and it promises speedily to regain its former condition.

#### TOPOGRAPHY.

San Salvador has a coast-line on the Pacific 160 miles in length, along which, for the most part, lies a belt of low alluvial land, varying in breadth from ten to twenty miles; back of this is a broad plateau, about 2000 feet above the ocean level, and along which numerous high volcanic peaks arise. Farther beyond is a broad and beautiful valley, from twenty to thirty miles in width, and over one hundred in length, drained by the Lempa (a large river, navigable for vessels of light draught for upward of 100 miles, and emptying into the Pacific). The northern border of the state rises up into a range of mountains, which separates it from Honduras. In the eastern and western portions are also well-watered valleys of great beauty and considerable extent.

The soil of the mountain slopes, the valleys, and the coast alluvions is fertile and productive in the highest degree, and well adapted to the growth of the tropical staples. Cotton is cultivated to some extent along the coast, and with good results. The chief productions, however, are indigo, sugar, tobacco, balsam, cacao, maize, and fri-

joles. The usual fruits of the tropical and several of the temperate zones are abundant. Indigo is the chief article of export. Under the Spanish rule this product was exported to the amount of over \$3,000,000 per annum, but since the independence of the state, owing to intestine wars and political disturbances, but little more than \$1,000,000 per annum has been produced. A district along the coast, between the ports of La Libertad and Acajutla, called "Costa del Balsimo," produces an article known commercially as the "balsam of Peru." It is collected solely by the aboriginal Indians who inhabit that district. About 20,000 pounds (valued at 50 cts. per pound) are obtained for annual export.

The mineral productions of San Salvador are not extensive. It has, however, in the northeastern part of the state, valuable mines of silver and gold. Iron of a very superior quality is abundant. Vast deposits of coal are also said to exist there.

In general, the inhabitants of Salvador have more intelligence and industry than those of the previously-described states of Central America. Their government is more liberal, and the rights of person and property are more respected, and the privileges extended to foreigners are greater than those above mentioned. Under a treaty negotiated by Mr. Squier, United States minister to Salvador in 1850, all the rights, privileges, and immunities of the citizens of Salvador in commerce, navigation, mining, holding and transferring property, are extended to the citizens of the United States in that republic.

"The commerce of San Salvador is chiefly carried on through means of fairs established by the government in the districts best suited for the exhibition of the products of the state. The principal fairs are held at Chalaltenango, San Vicente, and San Miguel. The two former take place on the first of November of each year; - the latter, called

'Fair of La Paz,' on the 21st of the same month. It lasts about two weeks, and is far the most important of any held in the country. It attracts buyers and sellers not only from all parts of Central America, but from nearly every part of the Pacific coast, as well as from England, Germany, France, and the United States. England sends calicoes, shirtings, drills, linens, hosiery, cutlery, iron, and steel; France, silks, cambrics, wine, and spirits; the United States, coarse cottons, sperm-oil, and hardware; Spain, paper, wine, oil, and spirits; Germany, glass, hardware, and toys; Italy, oil, preserves, and liquors; Chili and Peru, hats, hammocks, pellons, etc. About the only product given in exchange for them is the staple of the state, indigo. A second fair, called 'Ceniza,' takes place in San Miguel about the beginning of February. To both of these fairs large numbers of cattle are brought from Honduras and Nicaragua. In 1857 the number amounted to 17,844, averaging in value from \$5 to \$8 each."\* The amount and value of the imports and exports of the state may be estimated from the following table:

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
1854 .....	\$1,015,925	\$ 786,711
1855 .....	698,219	765,324
1856 .....	1,046,720	1,285,485
1857 .....	860,104	1,304,102

### TARIFF REGULATIONS.

*Import Duties of San Salvador on Articles received from the United States.*

*Rate of Duty 24 per cent. ad valorem.*

Denomination of Merchandise.	Number, Weight, or Measure.	Rate of Duty.
Bread, ship.....	101 lbs.	\$3 00
Brandy in bottles.....	dozen,	2 50
“ in barrels.....	gallon,	1 00
Candles, tallow.....		prohibited.
“ stearine.....	1,014 lb.	30
Cider in bottles.....	dozen,	2 00
Copper, manufactures of.....	101 lbs.	25 to 37 cts.
Cotton goods, white.....	yard,	12
“ colored.....	“	12

\* Squier's Central America.

Denomination of Merchandise.	Number, Weight, or Measure.	Rate of Duty.
Cheese.....	25 lbs. 7 oz.	\$4 00
Cloths and cassimeres, fine.....	yard,	1 00
Fish in oil.....	101 lbs.	4 00
Flour.....	barrel,	4 00
Gold and silver coin.....		free.
Glass, window.....	dozen panes,	38 cts. to \$1.
Hides and skins.....	dozen,	\$12 to \$24.
Indigo.....		not defined.
Pork, salt.....	101 lbs.	5 00
Printing-presses.....		free.
Paper, writing.....	ream,	2 00
Rice.....	25 lbs. 7 oz.	3 00
Soap, common.....	101 lbs.	8 00
Silk, raw.....		not defined.
Shoes, calf-skin, for men.....	dozen,	\$6 to \$18.
“ patent-leather.....	“	“

## HARBORS.

San Salvador has three ports of entry :

1st. That of *La Union*, at the southeastern extremity of the state, in the Bay of Fonseca. This possesses an excellent and extensive anchorage-ground, from three to twelve fathoms deep, free from shoals, and nearly ten miles in diameter. It is surrounded on three sides by high lands, and its entrance is protected by a number of islands. It is decidedly the best harbor in Central America. Its waters abound in fine fish and excellent oysters.

2d. *La Libertad*, 100 miles from La Union, is an open roadstead. It is connected with the city of San Salvador by a cart-road 26 miles in length.

3d. *Acajutla*, 40 miles from La Libertad, is also a roadstead. It is protected from all winds except from the southwest; but there is frequently a heavy swell prevailing, which often renders the landing difficult. It is connected by a good road with Sonsonate (chief city of one of the richest districts in the state), 12 miles distant.

## COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.

All vessels of the United States, no matter whence they may have come or how laden, are to be treated in all the

ports of San Salvador, as to all duties of tonnage, light-house, or any other charges of whatsoever denomination or character, as national vessels. From this equality the coasting-trade is excepted, which is reserved to the national flag; but should any favors of navigation be hereafter granted to any other foreign nation, it will immediately apply to the United States.

Imports into San Salvador in vessels of the United States, no matter whence imported or of what origin, to be subject to the same duties, charges, and fees of every description as similar imports in vessels of San Salvador; and if these imports consist of articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United States, to be subject to no higher or other duties than other similar imports the growth, produce, or manufacture of any other foreign nation.

#### PORT CHARGES.

All sea-going vessels, without distinction of burden or flag, pay \$17, in full of tonnage and other port dues. There are no pilots.

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## GUATEMALA.

THE State of Guatemala, lying between latitude  $14^{\circ}$  and  $18^{\circ}$  north, and longitude  $89^{\circ}$  and  $93^{\circ}$  west, is bounded north by the Mexican provinces of Tobasco, Chiapas, and Yucatan, east by the British establishment of Honduras, south by the states of Honduras and Salvador, and west by the Pacific Ocean, and embraces an area of 43,380 square miles. It is estimated to contain about 907,500 inhabitants, made up of between 7000 and 8000 whites (principally of Spanish descent), 150,000 Ladinos, or mixed bloods, and 750,000 Indians.

The Pacific coast-line of Guatemala is about 250 miles in

length, trending northwest, and is bordered by a strip of alluvial land from twenty to thirty miles in width, broken, however, by occasional spurs from the coast-range of mountains by which it is bounded, and which, spreading out into broad table-lands, form the greater portion of the surface of the state. These great plateaux in the southern part have an elevation of from 2000 to 5000 feet, gradually attaining a still greater height toward the northeastern part, where they are more than 8000 feet above the ocean level. They are frequently separated by deeply-cut and extensive valleys of great fertility. Toward the eastern boundary they subside into the low lands bordering the coast of the Bay of Honduras. Along the Pacific several volcanic peaks arise, the highest of which is more than 14,000 feet above the level of the sea.

There are several lakes in the interior, the largest of which, that of Atitlan, in the department of Solola, is said to be thirty miles in length by ten or fifteen in breadth, and no less than 1800 feet in depth.

There are also numerous rivers in the state. These, for the most part, flow into the Bay of Honduras or the Gulf of Mexico. The rivers emptying into the Pacific are small and few. None have much importance in a commercial point of view.

#### CLIMATE.

The climate of Guatemala varies greatly with its varying elevations, from the tropical heat of the coast-lands and lower valleys, through the intermediate spring-like temperature of the interior plateaux and higher valleys, to the cold and sometimes almost wintry climate of the most elevated table-lands and mountains. The plateau on which the capital is situated is in the interior, about 90 miles from the Pacific coast. There the average maximum temperature throughout the year is 88.7° Fahrenheit, and the average

minimum is 38.9°. The average mean is 65°. The average temperature of the coast-lands is probably between 80° and 85° Fahr., but data do not exist for exact calculation of this. On the highest table-lands and mountains in the northeastern part, ice and snow are not uncommon in certain seasons of the year. Here the productions of the temperate zones abound. Wheat of a superior quality is produced, and sheep are raised extensively. The wool-crop for 1857-was 1,500,000 pounds, but, from the lack of roads, the expense of getting these products to market bars their being raised for exportation. Cattle-raising is also carried on to a considerable extent. On the lower plateaus and valleys coffee, cochineal, tobacco, sugar-cane, and indigo are luxuriantly grown, also the vegetables and fruits of both tropical and temperate zones. On the low coast-lands cotton and rice flourish. The chief staple production of the state is the cochineal insect. The yearly produce of this is variable, on account of various contingencies to which it is subject. The crop in 1849 was 1,469,100 lbs.; in 1851, 1,231,610 lbs.; in 1852, 567,000 lbs.; in 1853, 312,700 lbs.; in 1854, 1,757,300 lbs.; in 1855, 1,204,510 lbs. It is nevertheless abundantly profitable, as its cultivators aver that if one crop is successfully gathered out of three raised, the receipts from its sale repay for the entire labor and capital expended on the whole. Cacao, silk, dye-woods, balsam, various gums, and many other minor articles, are produced to some extent.

The mineral productions of Guatemala are not extensive. Deposits of gold, silver, copper, lead, and iron exist. Some have been worked with considerable profit, but the mining interest is greatly neglected.

The seasons are divided into the wet and dry, the former commencing at about the middle of May, and continuing until the middle or end of October; the dry season then sets in, and lasts for the remainder of the year.

## POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

Guatemala is divided into seven departments, those of Guatemala, Solola, and Quezaltenango extending along the Pacific coast; Sacatepequez and Totonicapam in the interior; Vera Paz, the largest of all, in the northern part; and Chiquimula in the eastern. The chief towns are:

In the Department of Guatemala—Guatemala City; Escuintla, population 6000; Amatitlan, population 15,000; and Jalpatagua.

In the Department of Solola—Solola; Atitlan; Masatenango.

In the Department of Quezaltenango—Quezaltenango, population 25,000; San Marcos; Tejutla; Tapachula.

In the Department of Sacatepequez—Old Guatemala (or Antigua), population 20,000; Chimaltenango; Patsun.

In the Department of Totonicapam—Totonicapam, population 15,000; Momostenango; Gueguetenango; Jacaltenango.

In the Department of Vera Paz—Salama; Rabinal; Copan, population 14,000; Cajabon, population 4000.

In the Department of Chiquimula—Chiquimula, population 6000; Zaca, population 5000; Gualan, population 4000; Casaguastlan; Esquipulas, population 1800; besides many other large towns.

Guatemala City, the capital of the state, is 90 miles distant from San José, the sea-port of the Pacific coast, and 220 from Izabal, on the Atlantic, and has a population of about 40,000. It is beautifully situated on a broad tableland 4372 feet above the ocean level. The volcanoes of Agua and Fuego, 12,000 and 14,000 feet in height, tower up on the northern side 40 miles distant; the other sides present low mountains and hills in beautiful variety. The climate is one of perpetual spring, the thermometer averaging 65° Fahrenheit, and perfectly salubrious. It is regularly laid out in a quadrilateral form, with its sides facing the cardinal points; the streets are forty feet broad, crossing each other at right angles. The main plaza is 150 yards square, the east side occupied by the Cathedral, the palace of the archbishop, and other buildings of the Church authorities; on the west is the government house, offices,



etc., of the government officials; on the north, the cabildo, or town-hall, prison, etc.; and on the south a range of stores of various kinds. In the middle of the square is a fountain, elaborately and artistically sculptured of gray stone, furnishing an abundant supply of water; besides this, in each of the seven or eight lesser squares are fountains well supplied with water, which is brought to the city by two aqueducts a distance of five and six miles. The dwellings are all of one story. There are twenty-six churches, some of large size, with elegantly ornamented interiors; to several are attached monasteries and convents; a University, two colleges, one public and several private elemental schools, three hospitals, one alms-house, two theatres (one of which, just finished, is a large and elaborate Corinthian building, said to have cost \$200,000), and a large amphitheatre for bull-fights.

#### CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS.

The Indians are the cultivators of the lands, and are, in general, industrious and peaceable; some are owners of estates, but the landholders are principally whites. The mixed bloods are mostly mechanics and petty traders. As a people the Guatemaltecos are courteous, affable, and hospitable to strangers.

The prevailing religion is the Roman Catholic, and there are few countries in the world where the exercises and ceremonials of that Church are more universally and elaborately practiced.

#### THE PORTS OF GUATEMALA.

The commerce of Guatemala previous to the establishment of the Panama Railroad Company's line of steamers on the Pacific coast of Central America was almost entirely carried on through the port of Izabal, on the Atlantic. This port is inaccessible except to vessels of very light

draught. It is over 200 miles from the capital (surrounding and to the westward of which the great proportion of the staples of the country are principally produced), and is reached by mule-paths, through a mountainous and uninhabited region, with great labor and expense. It is now, however, rapidly losing its importance, on account of the more accessible port of San José, on the Pacific, through which much of the commerce of the state is already carried on. San José lies in latitude  $13^{\circ} 56'$  north, and longitude  $90^{\circ} 42'$  west. It is an open roadstead. The coast is very clear, running east and west. The anchorage is about three quarters of a mile from shore, in eleven to fifteen fathoms of water. The swell breaks very heavily upon the shore, and out as far as forty or fifty fathoms, making it necessary to use a girt-line for landing and leaving. The currents are very strong, and vary with each change of the moon, the variations sometimes taking place within the short period of six hours. From November to February the landing is easy. In March the ebb and flow of the tide extends from 90 to 100 yards, and at the flood tide the surf is so heavy as to dash up the beach a distance of 100 to 120 yards; after March the sea is again calm until July, and from July to December it is again rough, and the landing difficult. An iron screw-piled pier is now, however, in process of construction at this place by the government of Guatemala (if it is not already finished), which will extend from the shore to a point beyond the breakers, thus enabling the transportation between ship and shore to be performed at every season of the year with facility and safety.

The town of San José has a population of between two and three hundred. Supplies for vessels are, however, procured with much difficulty here, unless provision be previously made to obtain them from Escuintla, a town forty miles distant, on the road to the capital. There are no means at this port for refitting or repairing vessels at pres-

ent. The modes of conveyance from the port of San José to the interior are by mules and stages, and the arrangements are convenient and ample. Diligences for the transportation of passengers are in waiting on the arrival of the Panama Railroad Company's steamers for conveyance to the capital, 90 miles distant, and the intermediate points, and the roads throughout the dry season are excellent. In the wet season the journey from San José to Escuintla is performed on mules, owing to the deep mud on the low land to that place; from thence to Guatemala City the diligence is in operation throughout the year.

A small trade is carried on through the minor ports of Santa Tomas on the Atlantic and San Luis on the Pacific.

#### HARBOR REGULATIONS.

"Every vessel which shall anchor in the ports of this republic, no matter whence it may come, shall pay a tonnage duty of two reals (25 cents) for each ton of measurement. This measurement shall be ascertained from the register, the certificate of nationality, the patent or clearance under which it sails."

*"Shall be free of tonnage duty:* 1st. Small vessels engaged in transporting merchandise from one port to another of the republic; 2d. Vessels which shall anchor in ballast to take in water, provisions, or fruits of the country, provided they discharge no cargoes; 3d. Vessels of war, and regular mail or steam packets, provided they do not discharge merchandise over twenty tons; 4th. Merchant vessels which, exceeding 150 tons measurement, discharge not exceeding twenty tons of merchandise; 5th. Vessels which receive on board for exportation produce of the country, excepting *cochineal*." Cochineal pays an export duty of five reals on each ceroon to the Church.

TARIFF REGULATIONS OF GUATEMALA.

PROHIBITED LIST.

Guns, muskets, and all other arms for military purposes; munitions of war, as lead, balls, gunpowder, and rifles; prints, cuts, pictures, etc., bearing against public morals and religion; books, manuscripts, etc., especially interdicted.

FREE LIST.

anchors, cable, rigging, and all other articles belonging to ships' material not comprehended in the tariff; quicksilver, barometers, fire-engines, staves and heading of all kinds; scientific instruments and agricultural implements; books, music, maps, and geographical charts; machines and steam-engines; gold and silver coins; barrels, hogsheads, etc., etc., for exporting the products of the country.

*Duties on Articles received from the United States.*

Denomination of Merchandise.	Number, Weight, or Measure.	Rate of Duty.
Bread, ship.....	arroba of 25 lbs. 7 oz.	\$0 50
Brandy in bottles .....	dozen,	72
“ in barrels.....	15 to 18 gallons,	3 44
Candles, tallow.....	1.014 lb.	03
“ stearine .....	“	05
Cider .....	dozen bottles,	05
Copper, manufactures of.....	1.014 lb.	12½
Cotton goods, white.....	yard,	02½
“ colored.....	“	03
Cheese.....	101 lbs.	2 88
Cloths, cassimeres, fine.....	yard,	78
Fish in oil .....	1.014 lb.	04½
Flour .....	25 lbs. 7 oz.	25
Gold and silver coin .....		free.
Glass, window .....	box of from 137 to 150 lbs.	3 60
Hides and skins .....	1.014 lb.	12
Indigo.....	“	2 00
Pork, salt.....	25 lbs. 7 oz.	48
Printing-presses.....		free.
Paper, writing.....	ream,	25
Rice.....	25 lbs. 7 oz.	24
Soap, common.....	“	72
Silk, raw .....	1.014 lb.	72
Shoes, calf-skin, for men .....	pair,	04
“ patent-leather.....	“	57
Sheathing, metal.....	1.014 lb.	08
Spirit in casks.....	12 to 15 gallons,	3 44
Teas .....	1.014 lb.	18
Tobacco, unmanufactured .....	} 24 per cent. on the invoice value, with an addition of 20 per cent. on the aggregate amount.	
Tin, crude .....		101 lbs.
Wines in casks .....	12 to 15 gallons,	2 16
Wood, manufactured as furniture	40 per cent. ad val.	

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The official statement of the imports into Guatemala for the year 1860 shows the amount to have been \$1,495,191; exports, \$1,870,631. Imports from Great Britain, \$802,305; France, \$295,651; Germany, \$108,649; the United States, \$50,235; Spain, \$47,702; and small amounts from various other countries. Of the exports about two thirds were of cochineal, the remainder consisting of ores, sugar, coffee, sarsaparilla, dye-woods, and hides. The following comparative statement will show the increase of trade since the establishment of the Central American Steam-ship Line in 1856:

	Value.	Value.
Ores exported in 1855.....	\$6,600; in 1860...	\$92,575
Sarsaparilla exported in 1855...	1,890; “ ...	13,800
Dye-woods “ “ ...	5,000; “ ...	27,672
Hides “ “ ...	26,000; “ ...	76,582
Sugar “ “ ...	none; “ ...	52,377
Coffee “ “ ...	none; “ ...	15,352

The coffee of Guatemala is of very fine quality, and promises soon to become a prominent article of export.

By a contract between the government of Guatemala and the Panama Railroad Company, a drawback of ten per cent. on tariff rates is allowed on all merchandise passing over the Panama Railroad en route for that state.

Rates of wages are much the same as in Costa Rica (p. 188). Laborers on estates receive from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 reals per day.

# REPUBLICS OF SOUTH AMERICA

CONNECTED WITH THE PANAMA RAILROAD.

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## NEW GRANADA.

NEW GRANADA, the most northerly, as well as the most important of the South American republics, is situated mostly between the equator and  $12^{\circ}$  north latitude, and between  $70^{\circ}$  and  $83^{\circ}$  west longitude, containing an estimated area of 480,000 square miles. Its greatest length is about 800 miles, and its greatest breadth about 600. It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by the Republic of Venezuela, on the southeast by Brazilian Guiana, on the south by the Republic of Ecuador, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. Along the western portion, the Andes, divided into three great chains, pass in a northeast and southwest direction through the republic. To the east of the most eastern chain the country is spread out into vast llanos or plains, about 300 feet above the ocean level, gradually descending to the River Orinoco, one of its eastern boundaries. These immense plains are said to be unfit for cultivation, but large herds of cattle and horses are raised upon them. The wet season on the llanos lasts from November till April, and the dry the remainder of the year. The average annual temperature is  $80^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit; the wet season averages about  $8^{\circ}$  hotter than the dry. This section is principally watered by the tributaries of the River Orinoco.

Upon the sides and summits of the Cordilleras are vast table-lands, varying in climate and productions with their elevation, and embracing every grade of temperature, from that of the torrid zone to the regions of perpetual snow and ice, and, with the exception of the snowy regions, these plains are said to be remarkably fertile, producing in great abundance and perfection the fruits and agricultural staples of every zone. Between the mountain ranges are broad and beautiful valleys: that of Magdalena between the eastern and central ranges, and Cauca and Atrato between the central and western. These valleys are drained each by large navigable rivers of the same names. In the territories comprehended between the eastern and western Andes there are two wet and two dry seasons, the wet coming on at the approach of the equinoxes, and the dry at that of the solstices; each continues about ninety days.

The northeastern portion of the republic, bordering the Atlantic, is low and unhealthy, but of great fertility. At the northwestern portion the Cordilleras become depressed, and frequently disconnected, forming the low hill and valley country of the Isthmus, where, like the northeast portion, the climate is hot, and, in the lower lands, insalubrious, but richly productive. The seasons in these portions of the republic are divided into the dry and rainy, each occupying about six months of the year.

The population of New Granada, which has increased greatly during the past few years, is now estimated at 2,747,500, of whom 1,648,519 are said to be whites, mostly of Spanish descent; 183,166 pure Indian; 97,583 Negro; 366,332 Mulattoes and Samboes; 451,900 of different races mixed with Indian.

The Republic of New Granada is politically divided into eight states, viz.:

	Population.	Capitals.
Panama.....	168,500	Panama.
Cauca.....	404,000	Popayan.
Cundinamarca.....	635,000	Bogotá.
Boyaca.....	465,000	Tunja.
Santander.....	463,000	Bucaramanga.
Magdalena.....	89,900	Santa Martha.
Bolívar.....	222,100	Carthagena.
Antioquia.....	300,000	Medellin.

Agriculture holds the first place in the industrial interests of New Granada. Rice, cotton, coffee, tobacco, cocoa, sugar, and the tropical fruits are the principal cultivated productions of the low valleys and coast-lands, which also produce spontaneously caoutchouc, vanilla, anise, balsams, dye and cabinet woods, ivory-nuts, Peruvian bark, etc. The elevated valleys and plains yield wheat, maize, and almost all the other products of the temperate zone. The cultivation of the soil is, however, very rudely and indifferently managed, and the reclaimed lands bear a very small proportion to the whole.

The manufacturing interests of the republic are also in a very low condition, and consist of little more than coarse woolen and cotton cloths, earthen-ware, and cigars for the use of the lower classes, and the straw hats known in commerce as Panama hats.

The mineral productions of the republic are gold, silver, and platinum; it also possesses valuable mines of emeralds and of salt; but the mining interest is sadly neglected, being mostly left to the lower classes. Turtle-shell and pearls of fine quality are procured in considerable abundance. The entire annual exports are estimated as follows:

Gold.....	\$5,000,000	Cacao.....	\$200,000
Platinum, silver ore, and emeralds.....	1,000,000	Caoutchouc, maize, cotton, ivory-nuts, anise, rice, balsam, etc.....	200,000
Pearls and turtle-shell...	800,000	Sugar, flour, preserves, rough woolen and cotton cloths, brandies, etc.....	50,000
Tobacco.....	3,500,000		
Straw hats.....	1,400,000		
Peruvian bark.....	600,000		
Coffee.....	600,000		
Hides.....	500,000		
Dye and building woods	500,000		
			\$14,350,000



Education in New Granada is at a low ebb, though, nominally, liberal provisions for public instruction are made by the government. By law a free public school is established in every parish throughout the republic; in all there are said to be 800 public schools, and 60 high-schools and colleges, and 47 printing-offices.\*

The capital of the republic is Bogotá, in the State of Cundinamarca, in lat.  $4^{\circ} 36' 6''$  north, and long.  $74^{\circ} 10'$  west, which is situated on a broad plateau 8655 feet above the level of the sea. It is regularly laid out, the houses mostly built of sun-dried bricks, and of two stories, and is amply supplied with water. It contains twenty-four churches, one fine cathedral, a national college, with a library of 33,000 volumes in fourteen different languages, mostly ancient, an observatory, eleven high-schools, besides a seminary, and two public schools in each ward (eight), fourteen hospitals, three lazarettos (both the schools and hospitals are very indifferent), seven printing-offices, three lithographic offices, a fine theatre, one manufactory of woolen cloths, and one of earthen-ware. It has a good market, supplied with fruits and vegetables of both the temperate and tropical zones. Population 60,000. The city of Bogotá is distant from the nearest sea-port on the Atlantic (Carthagená) about 700 miles, and from Buenaventura, on the Pacific, 800. From Carthagená the route is up the Magdalena River by steam-boats to Honda, 700 miles distant, and from thence 100 miles to Bogotá by mules: this is the usual route for merchandise and passengers from foreign ports to the capital. That from Buenaventura is long, difficult, and expensive, much of the distance over the Cordilleras having to be accomplished on mules or the backs of the natives. The roads throughout the republic are very bad.

\* The foregoing statistics of population, exports, etc., were made out from official data kindly furnished by Señor Raphael Pombo, Secretary of New Granadian Legation.

The rivers of New Granada are numerous and important. The rivers Rio Negro, Caqueta, and Putumayo connect the eastern and southeastern portions of the republic with the Amazon. The Guaviare, the Meta, and their affluents, connect the east and southeast with the Orinoco. The Orinoco and the Amazon are connected at the boundary of New Granada with Venezuela by the Rio Cassequiare. Commercially, the most important rivers are the Magdalena and its tributary, the Cauca, each over 1000 miles in length, and crossing almost the whole of the most fertile and productive portion of the republic from south to north. The Magdalena empties by three mouths into the Atlantic, and is navigated by steam-boats for 700 miles of its length. It is through this river and the Cauca that the principal part of the interior commerce of the country is carried on. At its western mouth is the port of Sabanilla. It also communicates with the port of Carthagena by a dike or connected chain of lagoons 92 miles in length, and navigated by boats and small steamers.

The Rio Atrato, in the State of Antioquia, is about 300 miles in length, and is navigable for small vessels for about 150 miles. It empties into the Gulf of Darien. Besides these, emptying into the Atlantic, are the Chagres, in the State of Panama, and several other small rivers at present of little commercial importance. Emptying into the Pacific are the rivers Patia and San Juan, draining rich and extensive regions in the State of Cauca.

The principal sea-ports of the republic of New Granada are Rio Hacha and Santa Martha in the State of Magdalena, Sabanilla and Carthagena in Bolivar, and Aspinwall in the State of Panama, on the Atlantic coast; and Panama in Panama, and Buenaventura and Tumaco in the State of Cauca, on the Pacific.

Rio Hacha is an open roadstead. Vessels have to anchor one and a quarter miles from shore, at which distance

large vessels can ride. Cargoes are landed by means of bongoes or canoes. This can only be done between 8 A.M. and 2 P.M., on account of northeast winds, which prevail almost all the year. The landing of cargoes is best effected during the summer season.

The aspect of the town is very pleasing, as most of it is of recent construction. Its business is principally with the interior, through the Indians of La Goajira. Its principal exports are divi divi, dye-woods, hides, skins, and mules. Population between 3000 and 4000.

Santa Martha, 90 miles southwest from Rio Hacha, has a good harbor, with the exception of being exposed to the northeast winds. Vessels are laden and unladen at the wharves. Merchandise is shipped from this port in large decked boats up the Magdalena River, from the mouth of which it is distant about 40 miles. Besides the staples of the country, from this place are exported considerable numbers of horses, mules, and cattle to Jamaica and other West India islands. It ranks as one of the first ports of New Granada.

The city of Santa Martha is the capital of the State of Magdalena. There is a good hospital, a college, and a printing-office here. Population 4340.

Sabanilla, at the western mouth of the Magdalena River, is a roadstead. On account of a bad bar at the mouth of the Magdalena, goods have to be transhipped for their transportation up the river. The town is low and unhealthy. The residences of the principal merchants are at Baranquilla, twelve miles interior.

Carthagena is the finest port and harbor and the chief naval arsenal of New Granada, and is connected with the Magdalena by the canal before mentioned, navigated by steamers of light draught. It is the principal depôt for the products of the provinces watered by the Magdalena and Cauca Rivers, and exports sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco,

hides, specie, bullion, Peruvian bark, anise, balsams, dye-woods, etc., etc. The port is defended by two forts, and is the only port of New Granada on the Atlantic which has facilities for the repair of vessels. Vessels are laden and unladen by means of flat-boats and bongoes. The town is well fortified and well laid out, the houses mostly of stone. It has a massive citadel, several churches, a college, various seminaries, and two hospitals. Population 10,000. There is a charity hospital at Carthagena, where sick American seamen are admitted at a charge of 40 cents per diem; accommodations very indifferent. The usual charge for storage of dry goods is about one per cent. on gross sales; drayage from wharf to store, 28 to 30 cents per ton; boat for landing, cartage to wharf, and storing at custom-house, about 11 cents per barrel. From the United States to this port are imported flour, codfish, hams, butter, cheese, glass-ware, earthen-ware, iron-mongery, pitch, tar, rosin, cordage, copper, and a great variety of articles from France, Spain, Italy, and Germany.

The ships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, plying between Southampton, the West Indies, and the east coast of South and Central America, stop here monthly with mails, passengers, and freight. See Itinerary of said Company, p. 158, et seq.

Aspinwall, the Atlantic terminus of the Panama Railroad, in the harbor of Navy Bay, is a free port. The shelter here for shipping is extensive, and the anchorage good. Nothing obstructs the entrance to the harbor for vessels of the largest draught. No pilots are required. The wharf and storage accommodations are ample. Reference to connections of Panama Railroad, page 145, will give the principal maritime movements of this port. Harbor regulations, freight, wharfage, storage, light dues, etc., etc., will be found on page 88, et seq.

Panama is a free port. This port derives its importance

from being the Pacific terminus of the Panama Railroad. It is situated in the Bay of Panama, latitude  $8^{\circ} 56'$  north, longitude  $79^{\circ} 37'$  west. Its harbor is protected by a group of islands of considerable extent, distant about two and a half miles from the place of embarkation. The nearest secure anchorage for vessels of heavy draught is distant from shore one and three quarters of a mile, on account of coral reefs which extend for that distance out into the bay. The average tides at this point have a rise and fall of twelve feet,\* and transportation between ship and shore is carried on at from one half to high tide by means of small steamers and large iron-decked launches, which discharge at the wharves of the Panama Railroad Company. Storms are unknown in the harbor of Panama, and the transportation between ship and shore is performed at every season with perfect ease and safety. The group of islands before mentioned furnishes the rendezvous for the vessels of the Panama Mail Steam-ship Company. About nine miles to the southeast of the harbor is the beautiful and productive island of Toboga, at which place is the rendezvous of the British Pacific Steam Navigation Company. At this place facilities are afforded for the repair of vessels of the heavi-

*	Table of the Tides on the		
	Pacific at Panama.		Atlantic at Aspinwall.
	May and June.	Nov. and Dec.	Aug. and Sept.
	Feet.	Feet.	Feet.
Greatest rise of tide.....	17.72	21.30	1.60
Least " " .....	7.94	9.70	0.63
Average " " .....	12.08	14.10	1.16
Mean tide of Pacific above mean tide of Atlantic.....	0.759	0.140	
High spring tide of Pacific above high spring tide of Atlantic .....	9.40	10.12	
Low spring tide of Pacific below low spring tide of Atlantic.....	6.55	9.40	
Mean high tide of Pacific above mean high tide of Atlantic .....	6.25	6.73	
Mean low tide of Pacific below mean low tide of Atlantic.....	4.73	5.26	
Average rise of spring tides.....	14.08	17.30	
" " neap tides .....	9.60	12.40	

est draught by means of a "gridiron," which is rented at reasonable rates to vessels of all nations. There is also at Toboga a large machine-shop, where repairs for the largest varieties of machinery are effected at moderate charges. No pilots are required in the harbor of Panama. Fresh provisions and water are furnished to shipping in abundance, and at moderate rates.

Labor is cheap and easily procured; wages from eight to ten reals per day.

The city of Panama is a place of considerable commercial importance. Several mercantile houses of large capital are established here, which collect from the interior and the North and South Pacific coasts the various staple productions of South and Central America for exportation over the Panama Railroad to the United States and Europe, and receive from thence large quantities of merchandise for the use of the interior towns and different ports in the Pacific. For the maritime commercial movements of this port, see connections of Panama Railroad, page 145. Population of the city of Panama, 10,000.

About sixty miles southeast from the port of Panama is the group of islands called "Islas de las Perlas," or Islands of Pearls, where a pearl-fishery is carried on, producing about \$100,000 worth of a fine quality of pearls per annum.

Besides Panama, on the Pacific coast of New Granada, are the ports of Buenaventura and Tumaco, in the State of Cauca, from which are exported Peruvian bark, cocoa, tobacco, hides, etc., to Panama, principally by the vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, which touch at each bi-monthly. The trade of these ports is chiefly with Panama, receiving from thence merchandise from the United States and Europe suitable to the demands of the country.