

By the foregoing tables it will be seen that the passengers and cargo brought by the Republic, from the ports of Acapulco, Manzanilla, and San Blas, destined for San Francisco, will at once be transhipped to the Panama, which steamer will be at Mazatlan. The cargo and passengers brought by the Panama from San Francisco and Cape San Lucas, destined to the ports of La Paz and Guaymas, may likewise be transhipped; while the cargo destined for the lower ports will remain on board the steamer Republic until her return from her trip to Guaymas, and the passengers which the Panama may have brought from San Francisco, with the same destination to the ports below, may then continue their voyage. The passengers who embark at the ports of Guaymas and La Paz, bound to San Francisco, will have to remain in Mazatlan until the Panama arrives, or may continue to Acapulco, and embark in one of the steamers of the (American) Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, which touch at said port of Acapulco on their up and down trips, the 7th and 8th of each month.

This arrangement will allow that the specie taken on the coast by the Republic may be transhipped in Acapulco to one of the steamers of the (American) Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company when said specie is destined for the United States or England. The funds destined for San Francisco will be transhipped to the Panama in Mazatlan.

*Scale of Passages and Freight.*

From	First Cabin.	Second Cabin.	Freight.
From San Francisco to			
Cape San Lucas.....	\$65	\$30	\$10
Guaymas.....	75	40	12
La Paz.....	70	35	10
Mazatlan.....	70	35	10
San Blas.....	75	40	10
Manzanilla.....	78	42	20
Acapulco.....	80	45	20
From Cape San Lucas to			
Guaymas.....	45	28	
La Paz.....	30	22	
Mazatlan.....	25	16	
San Blas.....	35	25	
Manzanilla.....	45	28	
Acapulco.....	60	40	
From Guaymas to			
La Paz.....	35	20	
Mazatlan.....	40	22	
San Blas.....	50	25	
Manzanilla.....	60	30	
Acapulco.....	70	35	
From La Paz to			
Mazatlan.....	25	16	
San Blas.....	35	22	
Manzanilla.....	45	28	
Acapulco.....	60	30	
From Mazatlan to			
San Blas.....	25	12	
Manzanilla.....	40	20	
Acapulco.....	50	28	
From San Blas to			
Manzanilla.....	25	12	
Acapulco.....	40	25	
From Manzanilla to			
Acapulco.....	30	16	

} With 5 per cent. primage.

NOTE.—These prices of passage and freight will be the same in the up and down trips, except those destined to San Francisco, which will pay :

	First Cabin.	Second Cabin.		First Cabin.	Second Cabin.
From Acapulco.....	\$100	\$50	From La Paz.....	\$90	\$45
“ Manzanillo.....	95	45	“ Guaymas.....	100	50
“ San Blas.....	90	45	“ Cape San Lucas....	80	40
“ Mazatlan.....	90	45			

Children of from 8 to 12 years old, half passage.

Children of from 3 to 8 years old, quarter passage.

No charge will be made for children under 3 years.

Servants half of first cabin price.

#### *Freight of Specie.*

From San Blas and Manzanillo to San Francisco,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. ; from the remaining ports to San Francisco, 1 per cent. ; and from one to another port on the coast of Mexico, 1 per cent.

The specie to be transhipped by the line, either in San Francisco or Acapulco, destined for the United States or England,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

#### *Facilities for remitting Specie to the United States and to the Bank of England.*

The owners of the Pacific Mexican Mail line of steamers having made the necessary arrangements with the (American) Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, and with the packets of the Royal English Mail, parties can ship their specie on board the steamers of the Pacific Mexican Mail, and the captain will sign Bills of Lading to deliver said specie to the Bank of England, it being for account of Pacific Mexican Mail to tranship them, either at Acapulco or at San Francisco, on board one of the steamers of the (American) Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, which will carry it to Panama, at which port the agent of the packets of the Royal English Mail will receive it and forward it to England, *via* the railroad and steamers, without the necessity, on the part of the owner of the specie, to employ any agent in its transit.

#### *Terms of Freight of Specie delivered to the Bank of England.*

To the steamers of the Pacific Mexican Mail,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. will be paid for freight.

To the steamers of the (American) Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for freight, and 5 per cent. primage.

The payment of the freight will be made on signing the Bills of Lading.

On arrival at its final destination  $1\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. freight will be paid to the Royal English Mail Packet Company.

The responsibility of each carrier ceases on making the respective transhipment.

It is useless to enumerate the great advantages offered to the merchants of the Pacific coast of Mexico by this combination, by which they may calculate to certainty the day on which they will have their funds at their disposal in the Bank of England, which will leave Acapulco the 8th of each month, will be shipped at Aspinwall or Colon the 24th, will arrive in England the 14th of the following month, occupying, in the whole transit, the short period (on an average) of forty-five days.

#### *General Remarks.*

The Pacific Mexican Mail line will not be responsible to the passengers for loss of time for the delays occasioned either for the want of connecting with either of the steamers, or for accidents, or loss or damages from the dangers of the sea or derangement of machinery, etc.

No berth is considered engaged until the passage is paid.

To the passengers who, having taken their ticket, and from some cause are unable to make the voyage, no return whatever will be made.

No passenger having a contagious disease will be received on board, and if any such is found on board he will be landed at the first port at which the steamer will touch, and when well the steamer will convey him to his original destination, without farther charge.

The captains will take special care not to show any preference in the allotment of berths to the passengers, and, as a general rule, they will be guided in the allotment by the date on which the tickets were taken.

No passenger can have pretension to an entire state-room, unless he has paid the corresponding increase of one third price of a passage.

The passengers who have paid their passage from one port to another of the line may remain in the intermediate ports, and continue their voyage when they please, within two months, without any additional charge.

When the steamers are not lying at a wharf, the passengers and their luggage must get on board at their own expense.

Every passenger has a right to take his personal luggage free, but in no case can it exceed 20 cubic feet for each adult. All luggage exceeding this amount will be charged as goods on freight.

Goods can not be taken as luggage.

All cargo shipped on board of the steamers must have marked upon each parcel the port of its destination, and the owners will have to comply, in all respects, both on shipping and on landing, to the Mexican laws in that respect.

In case the consignees should not apply on board for their goods with the necessary promptitude, the goods will be landed and held by the line until such time as the expenses incurred for landing, etc., shall have been paid by those interested.

The captains and officers of the steamers of this line will spare no pains to facilitate the operations of commerce, and will have the greatest care of the passengers and cargo.

A mail agent of the Mexican Republic being on board of the steamers, no letters will be carried by the steamers but such as refer to the Bills of Lading of the cargo.

All cargo is received and delivered alongside of the steamer, the conveyance to and from the shore being for account of the parties interested.

The owners of this line have had, and still will have to overcome numerous difficulties, and to incur great expense to sustain the communication by steam, but they are determined to fulfill punctually the contract with the Mexican government, and when the necessities of the public require an increase in the number of packets, the necessary number will be added to those now in actual service.

#### *Line of Steamers between California and Oregon.*

Messrs. Holladay & Flint, owners. Offices—No. 107 Washington Street, San Francisco; No. 88 Wall Street, New York.

The Cortes, 1117 tons, Captain T. Huntington.

“ Sierra Nevada, 1247 “ “

“ Columbia, 778 “ “ F. Conner.

These steamers make regular trips between the ports of San Francisco and Portland (Oregon), and Victoria (V. I.), touching at the intermediate ports.

#### *Dates of Sailing from San Francisco.*

On the 7th, 17th, and 27th of each month; and for the intermediate ports, the 5th and 20th of each month.

## Officers and Directors of the Panama Railroad.

DAVID HOADLEY, President.

JOSEPH F. JOY, Secretary.

GEORGE M. TOTTEN, Chief Engineer.

HENRY SMITH, Treasurer.

WM. PARKER, General Superintendent.

---

### DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL,

EDWIN BARTLETT,

GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE,

WILLIAM WHITEWRIGHT JR.,

EDWARD CUNARD,

THEODORE W. RILEY,

HENRY CHAUNCEY,

WM. FELLOWES,

SAMUEL W. COMSTOCK,

AUGUST BELMONT,

JOSEPH W. ALSOP,

JOHN STEWARD,

DAVID HOADLEY.





# BRIEF ACCOUNT

## OF THE

### REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA,

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

---

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.

---

## 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 4500 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-



*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 12½ 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 fuerto, \$1; 1 real, 12½ 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, 33½ 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.	03½
Pork, salt.....	101 lbs.	62½
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.
Lumber, cedar and mahogany, per M. ft., \$45 to \$50.	Turtle-shell, per lb., \$4 50
Sarsaparilla, per cwt., \$14.	Old copper, per cwt. \$15.

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 administratively 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

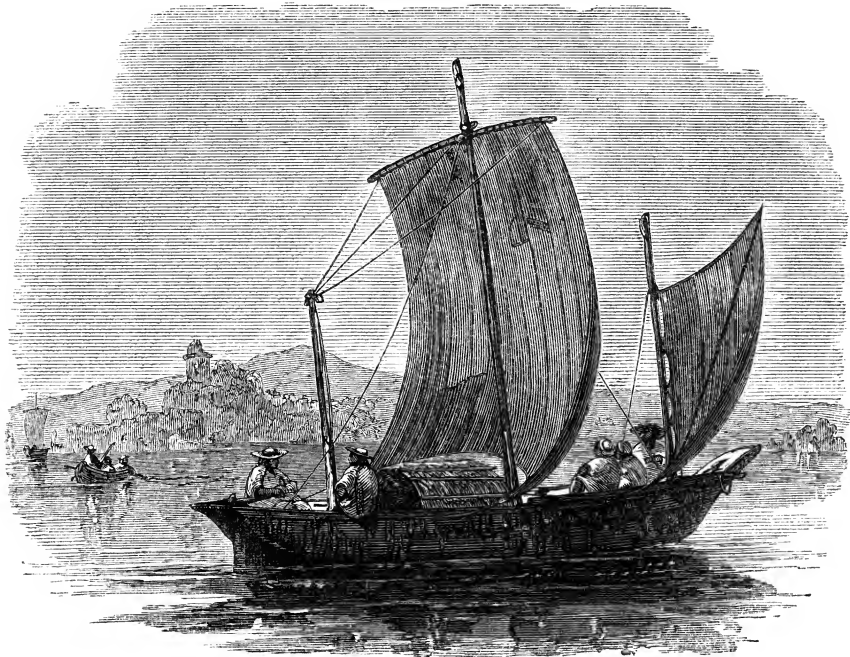
Realejo, the principal sea-port town, is situated at the head of an estuary about three miles from the harbor of the same name; the low and swampy coast-lands prevented its establishment at a nearer point. It contains about 1200 inhabitants. The transportation between the harbor and the town is by bongoes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

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

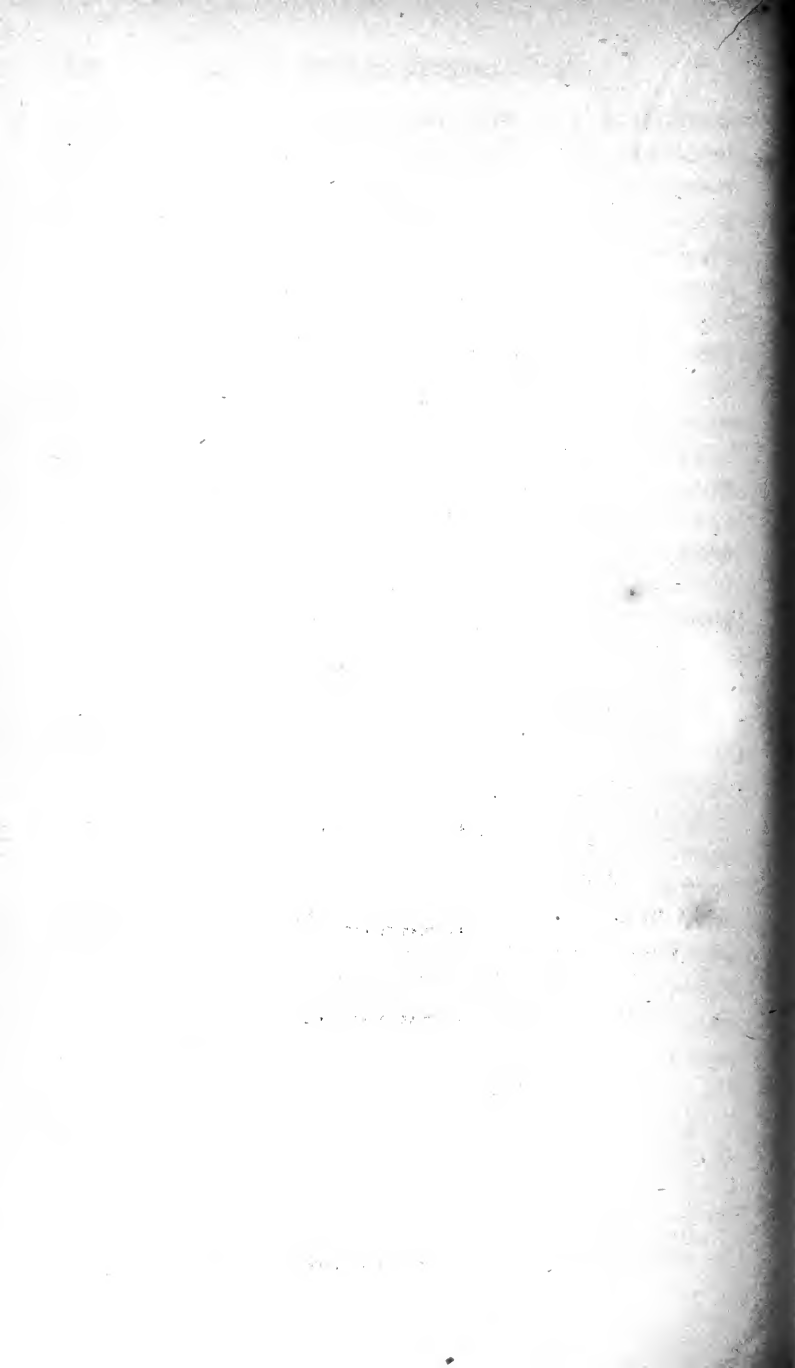
The northeastern portion of the republic is mountainous in its character, with a climate of the temperate zone. It abounds in mines of gold, silver, copper, iron, and lead. Precious stones, such as the opal and jasper, have been discovered; also extensive beds of anthracite coal. None of these deposits 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.

---

## 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.

---

## GUATEMALA.

THE State of Guatemala, lying between latitude 14° and 18° north, and longitude 89° and 93° 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  $38.9^{\circ}$ . The average mean is  $65^{\circ}$ . The average temperature of the coast-lands is probably between  $80^{\circ}$  and  $85^{\circ}$  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.