

Tuesday - 9. 17 - 1872 -

We were called by the "Moro" at dawn this morning and told that the "patriots" had moved suddenly out of town to meet the force of Regular troops advancing from Puerto. The night had brought wonders - Girls, women and men were looking out of the windows and from the house tops - every one was all anxiously - to see what was still to come. About half after six some thirty of the advance cavalry dashed into town and passed to the Eastward in quest of the brave patriots. The other troops soon made their appearance and it was evident that the pronunciados had fled. There was a shot or two exchanged about five miles up the River during the afternoon and the government forces took some fourteen horses, a few arms and one or two disabled men. The bells of the old church were rung for half an hour in honor of the victory - the troops went quietly into quarters and affairs simmered down into their old routine. - These troops are a worn out looking gang not half so manly looking as the ones of yesterday, and are not so well armed. They are under Felipe Valle and number 250. Cavalry and infantry. Lorenzo Torres commanded the 170 patriots - The want of men is made up by a full complement of officers - there being 5 colonels and 14 captains to command the 170 men - At this hour - 8 P.M. all is quiet - save an attempt at some music by the band -

I have been with Dr. Johnson all the afternoon hunting among his papers and writings for information respecting the country, its resources, history &c - We succeeded in bringing to light much valuable information - Extracts from letters written in 1853 respecting the advantages of Popolobampo Harbor and of a proposed route from the said Harbor via the Puerto River to the Santa Eulalia Mines of Chihuahua - The letter was written at the request of Major Greigg who had in contemplation a Military Road from the said mines to a convenient port on the Californian Gulf - The fact that this is a practical route has been previously spoken of by my friend and companion Col. Fred. G. Smith - The Rio Puerto next to the Rio Yaqui is the larger River emptying into the eastern side of the Gulf. It is described as passing mostly through a succession of grass growing valleys with but few, and not any very crowded cañons - The Rio Verde is its main and southern branch - This takes its rise on the North Eastern base of the great Mivoria Peak, which is the highest summit on the Sierra Madre (14000 ft.) is covered with perpetual snow and is due East of Sinaloa about 80 miles - The Rio Sinaloa takes its

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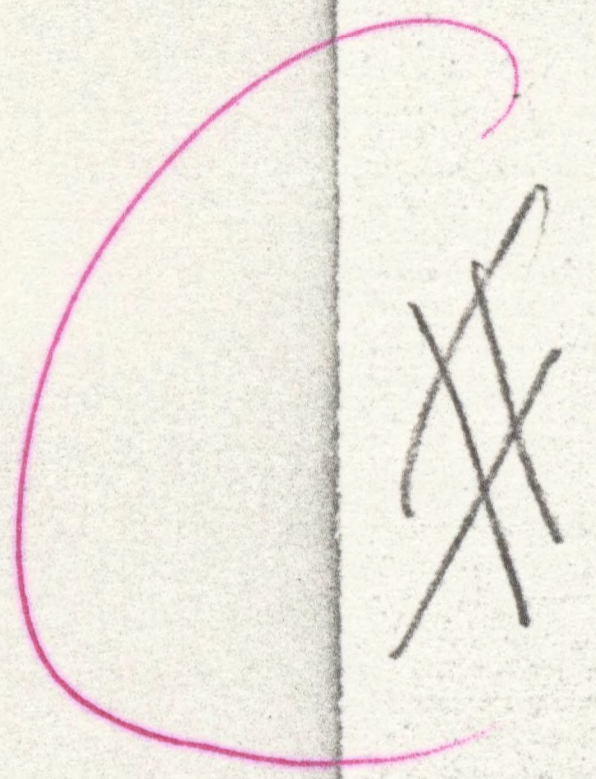
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source from the North West base and the Rio Murrays, a short distance to the South, near Alicama in the district of Bachimeto - The maps of this country do not show this Peak - They are universally incorrect in their details of Sinaloa and Sonora, and also of Western Durango and Chihuahua - There never has been a general survey made of these states - The maps consequently are drawn together from one, or two local surveys made mostly by mining companies and the other geographical points are guessed at - Many important streams are left out entirely - others are put down without any care as to what sections of country they influence and persons who have visited many of the more important points on the Gulf, or in the interior of these states, fail to recognize them on the best drawn map in our possession - That which, perhaps, is the nearer correct, or rather which has the less faults, is one embracing Lower California, Sonora and Sinaloa, by Ferseppas, Robert J. D. Aumaille and F. Lantern - The survey commenced by Capt. Charles P. Smith was never completed, and the notes that were obtained, were never put into a shape which served any ^{useful purpose} body ^{and} when the party undertook to survey Sonora, the people rose en masse and they would have been killed, if the land-men, had not the United States ship at Arms, the St. Marys, chanced to sail into the Port of Guaymas at the critical hour - As to the populations of towns, districts, States &c. - it is all guess work - there never has been a census taken - &c. &c. -

Wednesday - 9 - 18 - 1872 -

The mules and guide came up last evening so the Colonel and I got off at 7 1/2 a.m. - Reached a Rancho called Portuloty at 11 1/2 a.m. - after a ride of 13 miles - Day was hot, so we stopped to feed our animals and to enjoy our usual "siesta". Our road was a mere trail or rather path through dense growth in which the acacia is still the main growth - The Gum Arabic tree (Mesquite de Amarillo) is frequently remarked - The Brazil growth is small and not plenty. The "Copule" is the larger tree well with - Country level - soil mixed with gravel - We came through three or four small Indian (Mayo) populations in the neighborhood of which corn was growing - About five miles before reaching this Rancho we crossed the Arroyo de Cabrero - a bed of fine sand 200 ft. wide over which flows a clear stream 300 x 6" - It was running to the South, but turned suddenly to the Westward and followed nearly parallel with our path to this point - There houses here are "jacals" with earth covered ramadas in front -



to and we did not declare that Mexican Bonds were not worth \$100 on the 100 dollars although they are quoted as high as ten; but we did not swear - Saturday - Sept - 21 - 1872 -

It was 8 P.M. when an Indian came over to tell us that the canoe was ready - At 6 P.M. we took a guide and struck out S. 60° E. over a flat, well drained country for the Bay of San Carlos. The soil is a sandy loam - ^{"pitaya"} grows in abundance and stunted acacia also, but excellent and nutritious grasses, often eight inches high, even in the clearings - About two miles out we passed a fresh water lagoon surrounded with green grass upon which cattle sheep and goats were feeding. This, however, goes dry during the three hot months of the year - It is ~~fully~~ a mile long by 150 yds. wide but quite shallow - This is mentioned merely to show that where ever water is found in this climate and on this soil there too is found fresh and nutritious growth - We reached the Indian's fire at 6 1/4 P.M. - about 5 miles from Asiragua - It is too dark to see but the dim outlines of the mountains opposite and the shadowed waters in front -

Sunday - 9.22 - 1872 -

Our first night passed at "Mapayo" (red wood) on the Northern shore of the Bay of San Carlos with the Mayo fishers ^{at the upper harbor of San Carlos} was a novel one - When we reached their fire, there were two squaws, three men, an uchiu, a dozen dogs, about thirty sheep and goats and a few milk cows - These were collected like Barnum's Happy family, around several small fires of ^{"pitaya"} ~~pitaya~~ for the purpose of firing themselves from the Mosquitos - The smoke of this cactus has a strong aroma and the heat of the coals is less than that of any wood I ever saw by - The Mosquitos are few on these shores and are only troublesome during the early evening, at those rare intervals when ~~the~~ ^{the} air is quite still - In the cool of the night they are not found - Other sea shore pests are not met with - The Indians had been out fishing during the day and a hundred or more large fish hung from poles near by and the meat of the green sea turtle was drying on the bushes - The shells of these were lying around in innumerable quantities and the larger ones measured 3x2 ft. and stood one foot high - The Indians use them for seats and pillows and the agaves use them for vessels to hold water, salt, meat, ^{and as cradles to rock their babies.} - The belly plate is used to lie on, although the peccary skin is the common mat - They do not have shelter of any kind - The sun comes down in full force during the day and the rain falls on them as it does on their

animals - There is only one of ~~them~~ who speaks the Spanish ~~language~~ - Their home is at Asinagua, but they spend most of their time on these shores - During the evening the fish were salted and at a later hour taken to Asinagua - They carry them on either end of a pole a la Chinese - At mid-night a party of two returned from the outer Bay - One carried a large turtle on his back which he carried ^{by ~~himself~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~ground~~}, turned it on its back, ate a totilla and a piece of boiled fish and without having spoken a word, reared his head against a shell close to the fire, stuck his feet on a dog and was snoring five minutes afterwards - How very little the greater part of man kind have differed or changed in their manner of life from the customs in vogue in the days of the Patriarchs! -

When the moon came up, I could not resist the temptation of satisfying my curiosity at once as to our surroundings - It was a beautiful picture and, to me, one of great promise - The general lay of the San Carlos Bay is East and West - Mapan is on the north shore - The soil of our locality is loam mixed with gravel and decomposed sea shell, and presents to the beach a bold front full ten feet high - The tide was in and a fringe of white sand followed the sinuities of the coast - On the opposite side of the bay is the Peninsula of Topolobampo, its bold, picturesque, irregular peaks rising immediately from the water's edge, as do also, those which form the North side of the Topolobampo Straits - A short distance to my right and about a mile from shore, there is a large, turtle-shaped island, and apparently at equidistances, and nearly in line with it are two others, which stretch quite across the Bay - and to the left the great expanse of water stretches out apparently as vast and as mysterious as the ocean itself - Not a ripple played on this inland sea - The canoes, tied near the beach, rested as motionless upon its surface "as a painted ship upon a painted canvass" - I was satisfied - I felt that our visit to these little-known and out-of-the-way shores would not be fruitless - ^{in 1845,} just such a lone, neglected water side was the site, on which to-day stands San Francisco ~~in 1845~~ - and still more deserted and in all appearance worthless, was the Chicago site five years earlier - Why, too! should there not one day be sited here, at Mapan, a cosmopolitan city! Why, too! should not these waters float the ships of every mercantile people with the valuable and ^{the} assorted cargoes of the whole earth! There is a thousand and one reasons that such will be the case - There is not one in contradiction - There too! ~~then~~, will fly the respected flags of every nation - a happy sign of peace, brotherhood and exchange -

We were all up and stirring before dawn - Our intention of starting early for Popolo bampo Harbor was nipped in the bud, however, as one of our canoe paddlers had not returned from Asinagua - whether he had gone with fish - He wandered in at 6 A.M. however, and we pushed off - The tide had gone down (about 2 ft. gone) leaving exposed a hard dark sandy beach about 50 ft in width - Our canoe was an "alamo" trunk and rather cranky for four persons of our proportions - One paddler sat aft: the other fore and we glided along at an easy gait, pegging the ~~shore~~ ^{northern} shore - The ground a short distance below Mapau sank into playa, subject to overflow during the ~~high~~ ^{spring} tides - They ~~filled~~ ^{filled} the beach with a stunted growth of "mangle". This and shallow water continued till we reached the mountain base, which edges the sea to the west - Here the water suddenly deepened to 3 and 4 fathoms close to shore - The mountain presents a rugged, perpendicular front 10 to 15 ft high of porphyry and conglomerate - mixed at times with an upheaval of soft or decomposed granite and traces, like an immense terrace, it slopes to a height of several hundred feet - This terrace, like the slopes of the neighboring heights, is enriched in appearance by a short shrub growth on which, and on the loose boulders and stones, grow the "oreilla" (a lichen which is used for dye) in considerable quantities - Hundreds of sea fowl sat on the ~~rock~~ ^{rock} projections - among which was the "Alcatraz", pelican or Florida Jaeger, the rose-colored ibis, ~~innumerable~~ ^{innumerable} gulls and many species of snipe, or waders; while far overhead, out of harms way, floated the graceful "Swallow Gull" - This bird merits special mention. It is called "Tijerera" or "Swallow tailed" which appellation describes its gait - It is apparently the size of the fish hawk of New Jersey, has the white breast and the dark blue wings and ~~back~~ ^{back} of the swallow - As far as I can learn it is ~~never~~ ^{rarely} seen in flight, ~~and it descends close to the water~~ - Like the "Mother Carey Chickens" of the Atlantic ocean it seems to live entirely on its wings - an enigma in its life to the closer observer - They are only seen in the neighborhood of deep waters - I noticed them first at Alatala - But to give the tourist further interest we had the green sea turtle, or "tortuga" to come within "pegging distance" of the canoe and in such numbers that we might, with very little exertion, have supplied twenty or more restaurants in New York, with this rich and much sought-after meat - The water off this rocky coast was so transparent that we could see fish swimming about so near that a harpoon would have secured all ~~reasonable~~ ^{reasonable} demands -

The Sea of San Carlos is so completely enclosed that we could not

decide where the exit was and although we made a wager future events proved both opinions wrong - when the Indians told us that we were in the Straits of Popolobampo, or "mole Straits", thus called, most likely, because it is furrowed deep into the bowels of the earth - and which they in fact called the "Bahia de Popolobampo" - our feelings were akin to those experienced by persons who, after hearing and reading of the colossal grandeur of St. Peter's of Rome, at last, visit it and to their magnified ideas, it apparently is not greater than St. Paul's of London, or the greater architectural pile of Milan but they soon find that every feature is in such beautiful and correct proportion that it is only after comparing the size of the nearer objects that they realize the magnitude of Michael Angelo's greatest design - Popolobampo Straits improved upon acquaintance also, and after we had compared it to what we had both seen in the world, we concluded, unanimously, that it is one of the most picturesque and entertaining harbors in the world and is more than capable of floating the navies, war and commercial, of the Pacific - It is completely land locked by high mountains which rise out of the deep water in perpendicular rock faces, or natural queys, as the one previously described. - Col. Fitch says that this strait alone is larger than the harbor of Acapulco and is equally as picturesque as that of San Juan de los Rios - and in making a comparison with ^{the inner bay} that of Guaymas he states that it is equally as large and far more attractive -

The water is more clear, in consequence of the bottom being more stony, is more deep and every feature more entertaining than in San Carlos Sea - From here we went into the Bay proper or into the outer "Bahia de Popolobampo" ^{via the right channel which we named "Fitch Channel"} ~~in respect to Col. Fitch who represents the interests of the neighboring lands~~ - This bay is a vast basin of smooth water from 6 to 15 fathoms deep - with an easy and safe entrance - bordered on the left by "playas" covered with "mangle" with mountain ranges in the back ground and on the right, partly by mountains and partly by sand bluffs - Directly in front of the entrance stands the white and conspicuous rock known as the Parallon de San Ygnacio. We paddled into the centre of this Bay took a view of the ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~example~~ ^{example} and thence returned to the Straits via the left channel which we called "Owen Channel" ^{in due respect to the ~~writer~~ ^{writer}} - Both of these passages are deep, free from dangers and sufficiently wide for all classes of vessels - The turtle-shaped Island which separates the approach has the characteristic natural quey-like sides all around it, but mixed with the porphyry and granite there is an almost perpendicular upheaval of slate - This apparently closes Popolobampo Bay so completely that when one is a mile out there is to all appearance

and when once in the exit seems equally as mysterious - ^{not any opening} - The "pitahaya" grows on it and in them are the nests of the fish hawk - This Island used to be a great resort for seal (labos de mar) but for the few years past they have not been seen here - The best point from which to see the Straits of Japobampo is from the low terrace where the Frenchman had his smuggling jaeal and this is the point of land on which the proposed site of Carreras City falls in the taking I send Gen. Palmer - but we have been wrongly informed as to it - It is too small for a city site such as we are positive will eventually be located on this great Harbor - It is just the place for the terminus of a Rail Road which will be the entry and exit of the assorted cargos of exchange from the four quarters of the globe - This Strait is the real harbor of Japobampo - There is ample room for store houses, offices, depots, warehouses and so bold are the shores that the largest steamer may come sufficiently close to throw a gang plank or to the natural quay and unload and receive freights and passengers - We returned to Mapau hastily - pushed by the usual afternoon breeze, determined to go at once on mule back to the "jaeal" and see as to the character of the intermediate country - Got off at 4 P.M. but about 3/4 of a mile out crossed a muddy "playa" and were interrupted by an "estero" which made in from the sea - "Manple" grows on its shores. We followed up this arm of the sea, about a mile where it happily dwindled out and thence we proceeded to the North West - In this direction the country stretches, as far as the eye can reach, in a great plain or plateau of waving grass, recalling scenes witnessed from the car windows on the overland route - So interested were we with this section and its surroundings that the sun sank below the horizon and we had to return to our camp - We passed by two small fresh water lagoons in the shallow water of which hundreds of water fowl were feeding - and as we neared home the first rattle snake we have met in Mexico shook its casseroles and crossed our path - It was a beautiful species; a rusty yellow in color with black and white rings alternately around its tail, and nine rattles. ^{the colored forgetting} his usual consideration for animal life - shot it.

Sunday - 9. 23. 1872 -

Passed the night at the fires among the fish and turtle shells; together with the Indians, dogs, sheep, goats and cattle - It was made quite lively for us as the grasshoppers, moths, beetles and, in fact, insects of variety and number sufficient to complete a respectable entomological cabinet.

flocked in on us in their haste to get into the flames - Scorpions came out of their hiding places in the "pitahaya" wood and made a hasty retreat from the heat on to us and traps intent on feeding followed the bugs and caught them as they fell hapless victims on the edge of the ashes -

We were off before our rise - ~~The coast~~ ^{My Litch} to take soundings in front of Napau and in front of the largest and nearest island ~~which~~ we have called "The Brother" and its vis a vis "The Sister" in ~~affection~~ ^{affection} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~consideration~~ ^{consideration} of our children friends "Frankie" and ~~John~~ ^{John} ~~Carrman~~ and I to go overland to the smuggler's "jocal" - My course was South West - Did not find any high land, in fact, it is all a succession of playas encrusted with alkali and though now but moist mud are overflowed to a depth of two and three inches during the Spring tides - They are generally free from all vegetable matter and but little life, such as crab, fiddler and ^{other} Cretaceous species, which are the pests of other sections of this coast, is met with - here is not any unpleasant odor of stinky or decomposed matter - My route led into a valley about a mile wide, bounded by high parallel ridges, or buttes of loose rock (porphyry) but was stopped from reaching the low shores of Popolo Bampo Straits by an "estero", about 30 ft. wide fringed with a dense growth of "mangle" - This makes in fact the Straits at the north side of the Smuggler's point and winds in the direction of Asinagua for a distance of about two miles, or so - I retraced my steps a hundred yards, where I struck a trail - passed over a low gap in the ridge to the South - descended to a "mangle" playa" which fronts on the Sea of San Carlos - passed around the base of the ridge, ascended to another summit - (100 ft.) over loose porphyry rock - again descended to "mangle playas" facing on the Straits of Popolo Bampo - followed around the side of the ridge and came out on the Harbor front which I have named "Palmer Terrace" in honor of Mr. J. Palmer whom I here represent - The Straits looked more beautiful than ever - Porpoises played in the smooth water directly in front - enormous turtles came up to look at me as I stood on the quay and I counted a dozen varieties of fish from one to three feet long, swimming so near that I could have killed him with stones - I had not found a city site, but I had settled upon a terminus for a rail road, which in advantages is not second to any other in the world, in fact, a harbor superior to any I have ever seen, and I have visited the metropolises and parts of both Hemispheres - As we had concluded, last night, the best place for a city was at

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Mapan for here we could have the advantages of the San Carlos Sea and its handsome ground - This was the point, I mean, where the City should start -

It was noon when I regained the camp - ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Colonel} ~~Colonel~~, as we had anticipated, found but six feet of water between the shore and "the Brother" - but immediately on the other side there was a channel 600 yds - wide with 6 to 8 fathoms of water - towards the Straits of Topolobampo it increased in width and depth - and in the opposite direction, it held its run for a mile, or more which was all that was wished for our purpose - The bottom was universally hard, clear sand -

During the afternoon I tried to get the Indians to put me across the sea to the Peninsula, but they would not stir into the boat even for any reasonable price, and at a later hour when I started I had merely time to visit the Islands before night was on us - This is also a turtle-shaped and is full half a mile long and rises 75 to 100 ft - out of the sea - It has the characteristic rock front, but is covered with grass - Sea fowl resort here in great flocks - they roost here, lay here and are forever here - among the stones and scrubby growth - We are satisfied and only await the rising of the moon to retrace our side to Sinaloa -

Mapan is the site for the City - It has at this date a bold front of ^{how to make} ~~about~~ a mile or more on the Sea of San Carlos and increases in width rapidly as you leave the shore, as may be seen by carefully reading these notes - The "playas" may all be reclaimed from the overflow and become excellent farming and building lands by merely building a levee, or sea wall three feet high, or less and backing it with earth - It will be along the sea shore that the "alamedas" will be formed - The material for this and for all building purposes will be found in the ridges one and a half mile distant - It is inexhaustible in quantity - is mostly loose and is both granite and porphyry - Excepting these stretches of playas which we have mentioned, and they it must be remembered are dry most of the year, the entire country from San Carlos to the Rio Fuerte is high, drainable, level, fertile and in every way desirable land - It lacks but water to make it a choice locality for the favored homesteads of the most ambitious - Bateral is a large fresh water spring, spring ~~into~~ lake, nine miles from Mapan - It is an Indian name and means "long water" - It may be brought by a common desquicia in sufficiently large quantities to supply a population of several thousands -

But the full supply of water for turning the entire country into a garden may be secured in two ways - via - the proposed canal from the Rio Puerte and by artesian wells - The distance from Mapan to Moctezuma direct is about 18 miles - the fall is about 230 ft - and the country a plain - The Puerte River is a navigable river for small boats all the year round, and is capable of supplying as much water as the Hudson River does at New York - 61 million gallons per day - which is equal to three times the full supply of London - The length of the Croton Aqueduct, if I remember right, is 48 1/2 miles - fall 38 ft - cost - 53 millions. The cost of canals in Pennsylvania are from 23 to 50 thousand dollars per mile - they are large, pass through rocky lands, have locks frequently - For supplying water to irrigate all the intermediate lands between Mapan and Moctezuma we may safely calculate \$30000 per mile = \$180000.

As to artesian wells there is not a doubt but that they would be found from depths of less than 100 yds - Every indication approves this idea - the alluvial soil, the perpendicular upheaval of strata seen and noted in the islands of Popocatepec and in the streets of Sinaloa - the outcroppings of granite, the surface clay at Asinagua, the fresh, sweet and cold water which bubbles to the surface when a hole is dug in the white, shore sand - and the high mountain ranges which form the edge of the great basin - all geological indications of the nearness and abundance of subterranean currents -

From Mapan a rail line of about 3 miles would land one on the great quays at "Palmer's Terrace" - The grades will be level - bridges (30 ft span) two - a mile of heavy ballast (plagas) and a mile side hill work - loose stones. In front of Mapan it is necessary to throw a dyke to "The Bothers" - This will be one mile long - depth of water will be six feet where most deep - bottom hard sand - Of course there will be much work and expense in bringing the "Palmer Terrace" and "The Bothers Island" to a practical level, but even stone removed is needed - consequently it has a demand and a demand gives it a value - Quays, causeways, buildings, sea walls all have to be supplied with stone material - The line going from Mapan to Palmer Terrace passes along the base of the porphyry and granite ridges and from San Carran City will be supplied with handsome and durable material at less expense than the common adobe costs, for the stone are already quarried

and it is but necessary to roll them down and load them - There is excellent brick and potters clay at Arizapua - and even at this date an abundance of water to work it - Timber for building purposes can be brought at first from Oregon and California - at a cost of \$45. per M. Or it may be floated down the Puerto and Sinaloa Rivers from the mountains 100 miles east - Ties from California were contracted to be delivered at Guaymas at 90¢ They were to be red wood - which is a durable tie, but will not retain the spike well - If we can depend upon the cost of material at Sinaloa ties at Mapan via the Rio Sinaloa should not cost over 50¢ - Fuel can be obtained from the Chaparrals which spread over the coast-lands -

The climate in this vicinity is perpetual summer - During about 3 months in the year vegetation becomes parched and dry for want of water - hot winds, nor severe blows do not occur and there is generally a breeze and the shade is always cool in the hottest-weather and never requires fires in the coldest - All the tropical fruits, shrubs and flowers will grow - all the cereals, many of the vegetables and there is every reason to suppose that many of the fruits, berries & known to the Northern States will do well - Oranges on the ranches between this and Sinaloa give one crop after the other all the year - In eight years you may have coconuts - palm "Alamadas", giving their three crops of nuts per year and adding their grace and shade far and near - The banana will grow ten feet high the first year and give its fruit at once - &c, &c -

Oysters and shell fish are few on account of the sand and stone bottoms - a few clams of the "quohog" class are found in the esteros - fish and turtle all the year round &c - &c - Where is there a Harbor presenting so many advantages?

N.B. - About a month ago an explosion occurred which startled this coast for many miles in all directions - On running from their houses the Indians here saw smoke issuing from the mountains on the Peninsula of Popobampo - There doubtless exists a volcano - Metals of poor quality have been found here - both silver and copper - There is a small ranch for raising stock and the centre is reported to be good for pasturing purposes - Water is found in "tanques", or natural holes in the bottom of arroyos - The entire district is little known even to those who have lived close by all their lives - On the Southern end of the Island of San Ygnacio there was formerly a great pearl fishery - The oysters are still found here but there is not any company diving at present - The Frenchman Ortiz who was one of the earliest to create the excitement in these waters by taking 300 lbs. of the finest specimens to Europe as the result of one year's labor used to fish at this point -

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The Hawk Bill turtle frequents the Bay of Navachiste in large numbers. It is from here that the tortoise shell is taken. Excellent oysters are found at the mouth of the Rio Sinaloa — de la —

Tuesday - 9.24 - 1872 -

Arrived for the moon - Took a quipa at 12³/₄ a.m. and came via a short-cut-keeping near the sea shore, to the main trail which we struck just before reaching Aguara - Thence we crossed the Playa Grande (55 minutes) and came on to Baturi and so on to Palameche which we reached at 11³/₄ a.m. - distance about 40 miles -

Wednesday - 9.25 - 1872 -

We were in our saddles and trotting at 3¹/₂ a.m. and reached Toruato 20 miles distant; just as day was dawning - Spent the day with our valued friend Dr. C. C. Johnson the soldiers - the government pets had been to call the day before and had shown their good taste and respect by selecting several of the best horses the Doct^r had - These added to the others make 59 taken in the last six months - They had "Porfirio Diaz", whom I had left to recruit, but the Doct^r, with his noble generosity, told them to leave him and to select one from the others which belonged to him - It was quite fortunate for the Rail Road Company that they did - for as good a horse would cost me sixty dollars -

Thursday - 9.26 - 1872 -

Woke up early but did not get started till 4³/₄ a.m. At 9 a.m. - regained Sinaloa - Find the people in a horrid state from the exactions forced by the soldiers - It is the friends of the pronunciados ^{who} get the Devil now - It would set one of our politicians crazy to keep on the strong side here - It would be clever to exile some hundred of them to this country -

Friday - 9.27 - 1872 -

Had several visitors to-day - Dr. Prescott of California was one - The Doct^r as well as Dr. Johnson were well known men in San Francisco during the "Days of the Hours" - For fourteen years he has been in Mexico has travelled much through the country and has been connected with its greatest mining excitement - He confirms the existence of a magnetic iron mountain at all 15 leagues S.E. from here - It is more easy of access than the great mountain near Durango City - In a field near by there is the

largest areolite we have heard of - It is only partly exposed for exam-
ination, and yet shows a length of three yards and a width of two -

Saturday - 9 - 28 - 1822 -

The scenery to the Eastward of Sinaloa City
improves each day we see it - Do not recall a more truly enter-
taining landscape on this coast - Rain has been scarce in this dis-
trict for three years back -

Sunday - 9 - 29 - 1822 -

Had to get passports before quitting the City - Con-
sequently did not get started till 4 P.M. - Col. Felix started about 3 1/2
P.M. on his return to Magallan - To know a man you have to travel
with him - I saw the Colonel ride away with feelings akin to having
a tooth drawn - I would have thrown an old shoe after him for
luck, but I was too poor to buy another - Doctor Johnson, may his sha-
dow never grow less! was attentive up to the last moment and saw
us fade away to meet the shadowy future with as little assurance of
ever meeting us again as he is of meeting many of his patients -
This statement is made on the ground that the Doctor will never go to
that place which our set of Christians call "Hell" and another
set call "purgatory" and which another gang don't mention at all -
My course was a little to the North of West - Passed through a small
population called Cabrera 10 1/2 miles out, crossed an arroyo which
had a sandy bed 200 ft. wide and a narrow, but clear stream
in the bottom and reached Ocorono about 7 1/2 P.M. - 21 miles from
Sinaloa - We have stopped on the South bank of the Creek, or Arroyo -
The main population is on the North side -
Crossing the slate hills directly after quitting the streets of Sinaloa
one has an extended and excellent panorama of the country - I
expect to visit this section one of these days before I am very aged
and see farms dotting these fertile fields, as one may see them in
the Atlantic and New England States - Here too! some Cozzens
may picture "life in the country" - Here too! ~~the~~ children the
children will feed loaf sugar to the pigs and drive the hens from
their nests to see what prospect there is for eggs - "Coming events
cast their shadows before" -

Our road after this was shut in - acacia, paulo blanco, amapa,
brazil met with - The pochole or cotton tree is also plenty - Our
friend the Doctor thinks that this could be cultivated to great profit -
He sent a pod to the "Smithsonian" which measured eleven inches in length.
The fiber is used by the natives for candles -

x

Monday - 9-30-1872 -

were off two hours before day - Crossed the Ocororo and passed through the village in the dark - It has, perhaps, 250 souls - Road is a mere trail through the mesquite - At dawn came to the deserted Ranch called "Zapote" and entered a hilly and picturesque district - This continued with bad, stony trails to San Ojilas 36 1/2 miles from Ocororo - Acacia as usual - palma de Christo is met with and grass is found in the clearings - The country is fertile, get at times dry and dry - Did not meet a human being - Tasajeras is as lonely as Zapote - It is represented by our friend Dr. Johnson - Hare, quail, parrots, mulatas (a black bird with a parrot's beak) lizards (the common large iguana and the poisonous "escupiron") tuantitas etc. are met at every turn - We also saw a pair of animals of the even species - They were on the higher rocks of the narrow pass - San Ojilas has from 75 to 100 souls - These people are pronounced in feeling - Every man would be in the ranks were there guns sufficient - I was offered an excellent horse for my pistol this noon - but declined in exchange as I thought the pistol was the lesser trouble of the two - I have gotten barely over any fighting propensities which I ever may have entertained -

About 4 P.M. (my watch is useless - it has been in Mexico too long to go with any regularity) regained our saddles and came over a little, but still a stony trail to Fuente 21 miles, which we entered about 7 P.M. -

Do de Vega is a mere "jacal" cluster 2 1/2 miles from San Ojilas - The Rancho Montago is on an arroyo of the same name 8 miles further but is deserted and Canutillo is also on a large arroyo, some 2 1/2 miles from Fuente, and has good agricultural lands -

Tuesday - 10-1-1872 -

Night cool and pleasant - The people for the most part seemed to turn out on the side walks for the night - They smoke their "cigarros" and habrob at all hours of the night - I went to the River while it was dark to bathe - but the women folk came down to wash clothes, fill "ollas" and to accompany their children and husbands in swim - Day came suddenly and I found that my white skin and unsophisticated, lamb-like appearance was attracting the crowd, as much as the monkey cage does at Barren - I was caught but not dismayed and after regaining my clothes, took my hat off and, in all the courtesy of a Chesterfield, wished him a long life and an adins -

Fuente is a scattered town principally of "adobes" and "jacals" and

holds a population of perhaps 15,000. In former times it held as many as 5,000, but war tells the tale - the women and men stand about 5-10 - It is sited on the South side of the Rio Fuerte about 86 miles above its mouth and 28 miles a little East of north from Sinaloa and 70 miles East of South from Alamos - It was formerly an important distributive centre as the mines to the Eastward are among the more rich in the world - That of "Batopilas" is notorious as giving at times, virgin silver and like the "Estacha" has been the cause of revolutions and law disputes ever since its wealth was made known - It is about 130 miles East and about three quarters of a degree to the North from Fuerte - It has of late been worked by the Wells Fargo Company, but the revolutionists have it at present, and reports say they are getting much material - "Urique" is close to the above mentioned mine - and is also celebrated and owned by American capitalists - To the South is that of "Morelos" also rich - But these are only three - it requires but a glance at the maps of this state to show the many that I don't allude to - It is a district of richness, and six years ago was happy in many populations and industries caused by the money of American companies - but all these have gone - stagnation, poverty and uncertainty take their places - The only people one meets are soldiers - There is quite a pleasant "plaza" partly shaded by alamos - but there are not any conspicuous buildings at all - These were but means in its opulent days and they are far from being pleasant now - From the hill of porphyry rock, which is between the old church and the River, excellent views of the Valley may be obtained - Corn seems to be the only product and yet this is one of the more favored of the many fertile bottoms of the coast - Corn is a sure crop and never requires irrigation - The seed is recklessly sown into shallow scratches and covered with the foot - Fifty miles below Fuerte sugar cane grows spontaneously, year after year it comes up, is cut down and without care or trouble it comes up again - Coffee does well and experiments made with the better seed, near Ahomel, give full satisfaction - Cotton grows well but the "army worm" is destructive - Rice needs but irrigation and all the cereals - barley, buckwheat and wheat produce 100 fold - The Irish potato and all the vegetables have been raised, but at present everything is on a chile and bean basis - These bottoms are from 2 to 6 miles wide - sandy brown and may readily be irrigated, as there is ample water in the River all the year through - The coast timber is small and dense, but in the mountains pine, white, yellow and pitch, are described as growing sixty feet high without a limb and oak, black, red and white, are as fine as any

found in the United States - This can be "snaked" to the River and floated down during three or four months in the year - The port of Fuente is near Abasco and is known as the "Las Piedras". It admits small vessels only - It is what is known as a "bar port" among sea men and has a shifting sand bank at entrance of about one and a half fathoms (9 ft.) at low tide - The navigation of the Rio Fuente is interrupted by sand shoals during the lower stages of the water and by the swiftness of current during its higher stages - It is generally a clear stream - At times the water threatens Fuente, but has not recently rose sufficiently high to reach its streets - It has excellent water power (water) all along its banks but particularly in the east where it passes through mountainous districts -
 Some stone abutments in this vicinity - ^{Fast comes during the cold weather} I met a French gentleman ^{and the winter nights are so chilly, it is all-emptable without fire, & the people can -} who has copper mine interests here and has been travelling among the Sierra Madre for twenty years - He says that the best pass ^{time to suffer for no other reason than that their grand mothers used to do so. Chills and fever are the consequence - These are the venereal diseases will die catagol.} he knows from here to Chihuahua City is over the Jornal known as "Barragonache". The total distance is 10 days ride from Fuente to Chihuahua. - Beginning at the former we have a plain to the Rio Chioce - from Chioce to Barragonache it is a gentle ascent but very good - from Barragonache it is a gradual descent to Cariche and thence to Chihuahua plain - Timber is found from Chioce to Cariche; Dr. A. W. Hubbard of Boston an old resident of Mexico, says that he has been as far as "Unique" and that he did not see as rough work as he did on the Rail route - At Jesus Maria which is to the west and a little south of Conception Bituminous coal is found and is used at the black smiths in the population neighboring there to - At Pilar, which is found still more to the westward, there is a noted cinabar deposit. -

Wednesday - 10 - 2 - 1872 -

Our land lady, with all smiles, this morning presented us a bill of \$ 1/2 dollars for our entertainment in Fuente. Her other boarders are only asked one dollar per day - They were good accommodations for this coast - I will admit, but do not judge them by the bill -

Left at 6 a.m. - forded the River without difficulty - channel 400 x 2 1/2 - banks high and cobble stone bottom - It was a strong path to Mesquite - 18 miles out - Alcacia growth mostly shut in the trail, had handsome views of the Sierres Alamos all the forenoon - Mesquite has about 100 people and is on the south side of the Arroyo de Alamos - 800 ft. bed and a small rivulet in the bottom -

[Thursday - 10-10-1872]

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the overland — The Alamos Mountains may be distinguished, also those of Guaymas and the Eastern Range rises, bold and rugged at a short-distance.

About two hours after dark we came to La Pitahaya about 10 leagues from Cancobi. This is a Laguna and a watering place — it is stagnant water and is fed by wells, or holes. There is a Ranch to the eastward, but I did not see it. — We came on about two leagues further, found excellent pasturage and turned in for the night. The Estacada is an estero which comes quite up to the trail — it is a short distance from the water holes — were off ere 3 A.M. — morning cold and damp — passed in the vicinity of Mopoli, Ititaco, and found water at Guacima. There is a Ranch and a "huerta" here — it is irrigated from "norias" — Oranges, limes, pumpkins, plums &c — are said to grow well — but it was too dark for us to see for ourselves — Chilitapina is a Rancho to the east of the road, near a volcanic spur or butte — Bochoa is another ranch near by — Cutahuivampo is a gap between two volcanic buttes — where water is at times found — Cruz de Piedra is a large cross — full fifty feet long, formed by ^{with} stones laid on a gassy level — it is about 2 miles from Providencia. The country to the northward from this point has a flat, rich appearance though water is nowhere to be seen — The scenery is grand — Providencia is seen to advantage and is partly

Volcanic mounds - where water is at times found - 656
Piedra is a large cross - full fifty feet long, formed ^{with} by stones
laid on a gassy level - It is about 2 miles from Providencia.
The country to the northward from this point has a flat, rich
appearance though water is nowhere to be seen - The scenery is
grand - Providencia is seen to advantage and is partly
hidden in its shades - and near by here are fields of corn,
which look to be doing as well as where elsewhere seen -
It was about 7 a.m. when we dismounted at Providencia - which
is 18 miles from Guaymas - This is the Ranch of Señor José
Fontes - The only drain back to the district is the haul of water - In
a "huerta" adjoining the house they grow vegetables and fruit -
but the water is drawn up in buckets from a well and everything
is watered every day - It is a proof that the soil and climate
is every thing that is represented - We took breakfast with these
good people, allowed our horses to rest, took a bath in the
garden "pila", or basin and came on to San José de Guay-
mas 10 - miles, and rested during the heat - In this dis-
tance we passed by Agilak, Puerta, Yattamotal, Agua Sal,
Presidio Viejo, Bahía de las Mujeres, &c - They were merely old
ranches &c - but every place had a God-forsaken appearance.
The houses, in many instances, were down, the "acequias" were
dusty and but a few living creatures were to be seen -
This is what they call "the Ranch"; it is the old part of Guaymas,
but now an inland town - nearly deserted and falling

into ruins; a disgrace and an eye sore to mankind - It is on
 the arroyo San Jose which is, at present, a bed of cobbles stones
 and sand - There is water in this arroyo, but at certain seasons
 it sinks - I am told water is running a hundred yards or
 so below where we crossed - When the water does come, it comes
 with a rush and must soon pass away -

We remain here till about three and then came on to Guaymas
 which we reached at about 5 P. M. - From the mesa we got
 sight of the bay - This is a small level tract between the moun-
 tains - A well is being attempted or at least was being sunk
 but the Frenchman died before water had been reached -

The water in this region is excellent when you get - Tacochivampo
 is an oasis - and a small one - It is irrigated by wells -
 and is close to an arm of the Bay - "Delicious" would
 not be thought much of at this date - It is a pile of adobe
 ruins - but in excellent view of the City and part of
 Guaymas - It is a rapid descent from here to the beautiful
 garden of our Countryman, Mr. Robinson, which introduces
 the inland traveller to the great part of the California
 Gulf -

A reconnaissance from Guaymas, Sonora via Davis
to Franklin, Texas - or a journal kept during a trip
through North Western, Northern & North Eastern Mexico
in the Fall of 1872 -

A. K. Owen. C. E.

Thursday - 10 - 22 - 1872 -

Guaymas is a City of 2,500. inhabi-
tants crowded on a narrow strip of stones and bed rock,
between high, naked and bold mountains of porphyry and
the shallow waters of the inner, or North Western recess of
the celebrated Bay of the California Gulf. The houses
are irregularly built, are mostly of "adobe" with stuccoed
fronts and are for the most part ranged along one street
- Calle Real - and on the sides of the public square, or
"Plaza" - At one time of its history Guaymas contained
perhaps, as many as 5,000. souls, but year after year it
has given up its families, doubtless for the same reasons
which has depopulated and is still depopulating several
localities in Mexico - i.e. - misrule.

The point from which the entire vicinity, with its Bay, its
islands and its peninsulas, may best be seen is the
"Cerro de Sombroso" a prominent - castle-like rock which rises
400. ft. above and on the Eastern end of the Town. Dis-
tance lends enchantment - and when seen from this ele-
vation an hour before sunrise, Guaymas and its Harbor
are more than likely to inspire the young enthusiast with
exclamations in the superlative degree - It is only after
one examines the real practical merits of Guaymas that one
finds that even as a port they fall short of the accounts
heretofore given - I came here prepared to admit that
Guaymas was every thing as a harbor - a perfect model for
a sea port - I had spoken to people for seven months about
Guaymas and not one did I ever hear to contradict the

superior advantages found here for all classes of vessels. Some few when questioned closely, did venture to be liberal and to say that Guaymas was rather hot in Summer and that the water was a little brackish, but as to its city site and port securities over all others even equal to those of San Francisco were undeniable. I repeat that I came to Guaymas prepared and wishing to see a model port, prepared to add a few notes of applause to the many accounts of its facilities; day after day, however, Guaymas has grown less and less in my favor and now after a visit of eight or ten weeks I pronounce it a port with but few and meagre merits - a city site already crowded and impractical for further or at least for any considerable extension - a climate which is disagreeable all the year round and at other times uncomfortably so - a locality which is visited by sea shore pests and a vicinity which has but a limited supply of bad brackish water -

As a port the inner or North Western Bay is not practical but for the smaller craft and this is the case with the South Western arm and its associated recesses, while the great Bay which stretches to the Eastward and to the Northward is but a "shallow". Several years ago all these were deeper - I have had nautical men to point me places where there were two and even three fathoms in their early acquaintance with the anchorage and yet to-day one fathom would more than measure the water - We all know that the harbor used to be in front of San José de Guaymas in the great Bay ^{which} is now called the "shallows" - The craft of those days, true enough, did not require the depth of water which is necessary at present, but even were the same in use the "shallows" would not be practical for them - The reason for such a change is seen in the Rio San José which is in fact but an Arroyo but which has the same characteristics as the others of the country - These

against the rains, which are always heavy when they come, have
 washed and are still washing the stones and the earth
 from the Mountain sides and making material changes
 in the topography of the bottom of the Bay - The steamer
 "Montana" stops at a distance of about half a mile from
 the "Puerto" or Custom House and frequently scratches
 her bottom on the mud - When larger craft come they
 anchor in the "Second Bay", or between "Arquilla" and
 Almagro Chico, not daring to venture further, although
 they are hidden from the Town. This Harbor is not en-
 tirely land locked, that is not sufficiently protected it-
 from the heavier blows of this latitude - and for proof
 of this if the truth were told, the "Montana" so late as
 July last - while lying off "Lastre" was caught by the
 gale of that date - dragged her anchor and came
 night going ashore with her two larger anchors out - When
 questioned as to whether this is not to be considered with-
 care, the old tars say, "Oh! no - for the ships will never
 go against the rocks, because they will always get fast
 in the soft mud before they reach them". It appears
 to us however, that if there were a dozen, or more ships
 in the anchorage during one of these severe blows if
 they got loose from their moorings they would be apt to
 damage one another - During the July blow referred
 to, two small schooners which were well in the safer
 retreat of the "Inner Bay" went ashore. Now these
 statements do not confirm all that has been said of
 Guaymas but yet it is more than likely they are true -
 There is not any doubt but that Guaymas may be made
 an excellent and convenient Harbor - but not without
 many expenses and much difficult work - So much
 so that Matanzas may be made equally as safe
 and convenient - with, perhaps, the same money -
 The better plan that I see is to cut down the solid

rock of the Peninsula Lastre and thus make it into a pier -
 For further wharf room "Ardilla" Island may be brought to
 a practical level and with the rock thus removed it and
 the main land may be joined by a dyke. But it must
 be recollected that both of these are solid rock forma-
 tions and that their height is at least 50 ft. above the
 water level. Their size and position may be seen by
 referring to the plan and photographs. This plan would
 create an excellent port fronting on the "Second Bay" and
 the dyke full half a mile long, which would connect the
 "Punta de Arena" with "Ardilla" would give safe protection
 to the larger and smaller craft. As regards the entry
 and exit Quaymas is all that could be desired. Water
 is clear and beautiful. Tides are uncertain. Five feet are
 the highest.

As a town site Quaymas is already occupied. Houses have
 already advanced on to made ground on the edge of the
 Bay and they run almost due West into the entrance
 of the narrow, rocky and inclined valley beyond. The
 design is to fill in the shallow water from "Lastre" to
 "Cañera" and have all that for a town site - but after
 all this work and expense and time the town site would
 be unequal to support a city which is to rival San
 Francisco and to be the great Sea Port for the in-
 coming and outgoing of the China and American
 exchange - I have ventured to ask certain ones of
 the place, the calculated cost of such a work, but
 the Quaymas Americans never consider the cost of any
 thing. The only question with them is "is it possible". They
 speak about blasting down "Telegraph Hill" and thus making
 further room. Now this Hill is a mountain of solid
 porphyry, a thousand feet high. Should these clever people
 be one half as industrious as their ideas might lead some
 "mere boys" to suppose they will put the "Frisco" people to
 shame.

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As to Climate Maymas is perhaps superior for its steady heat
to any place on our Continent - In the middle of the
day all business is at an end i.e. from about 11 A.M.
till about 4 P.M. The Thermometer stands from 96° to 110°
and when the warm winds prevail it is terrible. These
come about the latter part of August, or early part of
September, last three or four days at a time, drive
every one into the house and wharf the wood work about
the doors will not shut and are destructive in every
way to comfort and to property. The damage which these
winds cause the shipping are remarked by all - The
nights are usually hot, except in winter when the even-
ing and nights are cool and enjoyable - Mosquitos
are troublesome night and day through the hot weather.
Sea baths are enjoyed all the year round and fires
are not used at all - Slight shocks of earthquakes
are felt occasionally particularly towards the latter part
of summer or during the early part of fall - The gales
or hurricanes are looked for by the citizens and waited
for by the mariners from August till November -
It rains but once, or twice a year and has been known
to go even two years without a drop - When it does rain
it comes in torrents, washes down houses and turns
the entire community into terror. This year it rained
three times - In July last there were two days on
which it poured in succession - It washed down one
or two houses and I am told that every house was
more, or less damaged with water - There were some of
the families who had to get under tents pitched in their
parlors and others took shelter under umbrellas - Some
times the storms are so local that the up-town people
will have a water-pout and the down-towners will
only be made aware of the fact by having a rush of
water through their gutters - On the 14th of this month

at a distance of 25 miles there was a gale of wind and a pour of rain which threatened to sweep every thing before them - In Guaymas we were all suffering with the excessive heat - fogs prevail in winter at times -

As to health Guaymas is perhaps perfect - The atmosphere is dry and out-door life is about the kinds of the Pennsylvania. Under such systems of ventilation lung and throat diseases are not to be met with - The only practice for the doctors is attending to those who have too frequently given themselves up to mid-night revels -

The water of Guaymas is saltish - It improves as the higher lands are approached - At the Rancho, or San José de Guaymas there is good water found at 12 ft. depth - and plenty of it - The facilities of getting water in Guaymas has also been exaggerated or enthusiastically considered - The rain can not be depended upon

There is not a point on the coast, perhaps, as difficult to get water as Guaymas - The first suggestion made by the ouls is to bring water from the San José River - In the first place the San José River is but an Arroyo - in the bed of which the water sinks for most of the year - To bring it over the ground which they calculate on i.e. via the "Caminos Reales" they would have to ~~excavate a trench a hundred and~~ lay miles

miles of pipe, or build aqueducts and elsewhere cut through solid rock - The better way to bring water via acequia would be to make a detour to the eastward and curve around the mountains along the margin of the "shallows". In this way they might supply the present town site - The second proposition is to bring the Yaqui River to Guaymas via a great canal - This plan is to commence at Comoripa,

thence via Petanque and the neighborhood of the "Yaca Yeta" Pass, a distance of 140 miles, to the

famous Bay - This is a favorite plan, as it would water
 the intermediate country - and there is said to be a
 company organized under the title of the "Río Yaque
 Navigation Company" - This seems to me to be
 impractical, however, as there is not sufficient water in
 the Yaque River at its lower stages, to accomplish
 all this and at the same time supply its own bot-
 toms - The third and last plan is to bring water
 in pipes from the mountain in the Algodones District
 which lies some 27 miles W. of Guaymas, where
 there is said to be a perpetual stream, or spring of
 superior water from an orifice 4 inches in diameter -
 There are not any "huertas" or gardens in Guaymas nor
 any probability of an "Alameda" or shaded Plaza,
 as the foundation is bed rock - The climate is just the
 one for luxuriant vegetation, but water and soil are
 scarce - Our country man John Robinson Esq. has
 a beautiful garden at the entrance of the Valley on
 the Western suburbs, but it cost him something over
 \$37,000 - The earth had to be hauled there and
 irrigation is supplied from "Norias" - Earth is as scarce
 in the vicinage of Guaymas as it is in the "Campo Santo"
 at Pisa ~~and it is well known that the latter was
 brought in vessels from Mount Calvary Jerusalem~~
 Fruits are scarce in Guaymas - A few water melons and
 pumpkins are brought from the Yaque River by the
 Indians, together with sugar cane and corn - and
 a few fruits, such as granadas, quinces, sweet and
 sour limes, oranges, drift in from the Alamos and
 Hermosillo districts - Most of the vegetables come
 from "Paisco" - Flour comes in from the Sonora River
 at a cost of about 12 to 14 dollars per "Carga" - Corn
 and onions also come in large quantities - Living
 is more expensive than in San Francisco and as

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for living as well that is impossible - Board at the "Hotel Grande" is 1 1/2 dollars per day and is substantial and comfortable - The rooms are but meagly furnished - To keep a horse costs 75¢ per day and most horses get sick on account of the inferior grass (hay) and the bad water - The oysters are good, equal to those, perhaps, found elsewhere - They are worth 2 dollars per 1000 - delivered in the City - P. M. Scoffy, an old Californian man, has been trying to put these into cans and in this manner to send them to San Francisco - but thus far he has not been successful - The sea turtle is also abundant - and easily captured and the same process has been practiced to preserve its meat, but with the same result - This promises to be an important industry when the correct principle is fully understood - The fish are as found along the coast -

All articles of clothing &c - are high - The duties are equal nearly to their market-prices elsewhere - Even the Mexican articles, such as serapes, rebozos, hats and olla wares, which mostly come from Guadalupe via Mazatlan are taxed so that they can be enjoyed only by the few - The steamer is due every 40 days from California and Mazatlan - but she is never regular - Her freight for La Paz, Mazatlan and Guaymas last month did not amount to 100 tons. It would not pay the company to run were it not for the demands for the Carmen Islands salt - Hides, ores, and bullion are the only exports to San Francisco - Flour is sent to Sinaloa and to the opposite coast, which gives employment to small coasters - The import-duties do not amount to over 500000 when business is most prosperous - The Consul states 2 million dollars, but he most likely was misinformed - Machinery and quicksilver are

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admitted free of duties according to law, but the indirect taxes are severe - Sulphur is taxed although it is largely used for amalgamating. There is an effort being now made to remove the tax, when it is for mining purposes - Salt for the mines comes from the old mouth of the Rio Yaqui and costs about 2 1/2 dollars per "Carga" at La Dura and San Marcos. The Sulphur of the Tres Virgenes which are official is considered as good, but a year or so ago it was worked by John Robinson Esq. - and was given up as an unprofitable business - The best Sulphur comes from the Rio Colorado 110 miles below Fort Guaymas. It assays 80% - Lumber comes from San Francisco and from ports in Oregon and ranges from 35 to 80 dollars per M. - Coal is from California "Mount Diablo" and is worth 14 dollars per ton - It is inferior bituminous. The great coal bed of this coast is found near San Antonia de Sa Huerta. The best mine yet worked, is 135 miles from Guaymas and 8 miles north of the Rio Yaqui - It is anthracite, is a breast-mine and is said by those who have used it; to be equal to the best Pennsylvania coal - It is in abundance and is being used in the stamp mills at Los Brazos - In 1866 during April and May Capt. Scott of the United States Steamer Saragat came to Guaymas by orders of our Government and the officers went overland to visit these coal outcroppings - but as to what their Report was I have not the advantage of knowing -

A Mule Express comes and goes to Alamos each week and weekly stage communication is kept up between Hermosillo and this port, and thence i.e. for Hermosillo overland to San Diego, via Tucson; schedule time 15 days - To Mulege which is across the Gulf 60 miles distant there is not any regular communication

Small craft cross over about every month - Affairs are stagnant - there now. Cattle are dying for want of water - The pearl fisheries along the coast are brisk, as they have been for many years - The business amounts to about 100,000. per year - 75,000. worth of shells are caught at Sa Paz and the rest in the Mulege District - George Howell and John Pray both old settlers of Mexico have both called on me during my stay and have partly explained the secret of producing pearls artificially - These gentlemen are now getting ready to engage in this venture and they feel confident of success - I wish them the fortune which their experiment promises and think it is probable that success may attend their efforts - The Chinese produce an inferior pearl and I expect these Americans can equal if not surpass their Oriental co-laborers -

The principal houses in Guaymas are Sandoval & Buller, Loayza & Bustamente, E. Clausen & Co., Roundtree & Lubbert, Sistier & Gberri, Grignon & Escobosa, and others -

The United States and Prussia have consuls at this port - There is a Theatre Building, a church foundation an English School, Drug Store, Black Smith Shop, and Custom House - Music is given twice a week in the Plaza - English is spoken in all the larger houses -

Wednesday - 10.23 - 1872 -

This forenoon we had a slight shock of Earthquake - About noon joined a party of three gentlemen and came out to see the Bay and to fish - Craft was a small sailing ship, manned by two Yaque Indians - We first went over to the Peninsula of "Morito" and threw in a cartridge of giant powder. The sight should be seen to be fully appreciated - In an instant the entire vicinity was covered with fish - some dead, many but partly stunned. With hand nets we collected the larger salt water trout, which measured from 1 to 2 ft. - We afterwards came to Punta Paja and got chiefly or more large bass. The scenery is attractive and the water is so clear that we could watch the finny inhabitants sporting in the depths full two fathoms below - The Sea Turtle was also plenty and quite tame - This evening we have stopped on the peninsula which makes out between "Pitahaya" and "San Vicente" - It is a beautiful sunset - A change from shore life agreeable to us all -

"Joris" the shark fisher lives in a cave on "San Vicente" near our locality - We gave him a boat load of fish to take to the Guaymas market which is about five miles away - He makes a business fishing for sharks and boiling the oil from the liver - The wood used is the "pitahaya" which grows in great quantities on most of the islands and main shore -

Thursday - 10.24 - 1872 -

It was a novel night - that of yesterday - We collected drift wood and made a fire and the Yaque's cooked us a real camp supper - We got our great lines out - inch rope

with one hook each fastened to iron chains - and tied tin cups to them so as to be notified when they were disturbed - Our walk around the beach showed us much local formation but it was too old and worn to be ornamental - This recess is shallow and this is the case with all the shore which have visited on this Bay, although the shores are bold, rocky and at times mountainous -

When we went to our blankets we each had a rope line curled once loosely around our legs so that the jerk would be sufficient to awaken us as the attack would commence to play - During the night we caught four shovel nose sharks, but they were small. Before day, had breakfast, came into the "Escuinada Cobalina" and exploded two cartridges but it was too dark to find the victims - We afterwards came to "Cabo Naro" and in the deep water, but a few yards off of the Mountain Coast, dropped our anchor just as the sun was rising - The sharks were too plenty to allow us to hope for better fish - We got three large "shovel nose" to the surface - but only one succeeded in harpooning and killing one - I had one which would have measured eight feet - We worried him and frightened ourselves for half an hour trying to master him, but he foiled all our efforts - Later in the forenoon we changed our fishing ground to near "San Vicente" and succeeded in catching several fine large fish - the larger having a weight of about 15 lbs - In all we caught 14 varieties, including a large, frightful looking eel - Reached Guaymas about 3 P. M. having had a favorable breeze up the Bay -

On the great cliffs at "Punta Navifon" we noticed a small species of squirrel - they were the least in

size that any of us had ever seen - not much larger than mice and yet having the bushy tail of the Grey Squirrel - as for the fishing it was the most exciting that I had ever enjoyed, though my companions declared that "luck" was against us - Our fish would have sold in the markets of Philadelphia or New York for \$75 - wholesale -

There is not any hopes of the steamer coming soon - so I will start in the morning - I called to see the Mayor of Guaymas this evening and was rather surprised to stumble into a company of young folk engaged in music and dance - It was a "Saint-Day" of the youngest daughter and her friends were assembled to pay their respects - Every member of the family have their "Saint-Day" each year - Every Saint has a certain day especially dedicated for his or her honor, and whoever the name of a person agrees with that of the Saint, the said person has a special claim to the honors and compliments of the day - It is the custom for young men who are intimate in the house circle to come at dawn and fire crackers, the younger friends come to early coffee, the older people to dinner and every one triumph the day and at night there is generally a grand assembly of all and the meriment and compliment becomes general. This custom breaks the bitterness which would otherwise make society stagnant -

Allow me here to remark, that, in all the larger Cities in Mexico, the piano-forte is a common article of drawing room entertainment - and the amateur players are as talented as Americans and in fact learn quicker with many less advantages than their fairer and more brilliant Cousins - The violin, guitar and, occasionally, the harp are met with

and each is handled so as to bring forth the sweetest strains of dancing music - The dancing time is slow - it keeps pace with the country - Gallops are rare and in many parts unknown - Slow Waltzes and polkas are the hobbies of the Mexicans -

Friday - 10-25-1872 -

Left Guaymas at 6 a.m. and arrived at San José de Guaymas at 7^{3/4} a.m. - On the extensive and well drained plain which the main road passes over directly after leaving the "Ranch" is the better site for a City - It is a handsome location for a City in many respects and is the only one in the vicinity of the celebrated Harbor - Even in this short distance there is a marked difference in respect to heat, comfort and natural facilities - After we passed out of the Puerta or Gate we left the Alamos Road and turned to the N. E. - San Hilos is a Rancho some two miles distant - It has just been located - Good water is had here at a depth of 25 varas - The lands are fertile but every thing is dusty and the sun is quite hot and oppressive - We pass over a number of "acequias" but they are old and out of use - and have been for several years - The Rancho de San Antonio has a large tract of beautiful land enclosed by a brush fence - The soil is dark prairie soil, but is not planted in any thing as far as I may see - There is a deep well here and four oxen and as many men are engaged in irrigating a small huerta and in watering stock - This is four and a half miles from San Hilos - Santa Maria is two and a half miles further - I never saw prettier agricultural lands than are to be seen in this vicinage - As level as a floor and as fertile

an could be done - It is near here that the
 Rio San Marcos sinks - It is kept mine winter
 than the distinct, hence it is at that time - But
 ing the dim seams of the year, however, everything
 is packed and things - here also - There is a well
 5-6 meters deep and there are 2 meters of water - but
 it is brackish - It is said to travel for 12 1/2 km
 animal - We could have during the warm months
 I am accompanying Messrs. Fuller & Prang to San Marcos
 since there is a half-mile from Santa Maria we came to
 the "Rio Verde" which is a small kind of muddy water
 coming from the "Cerro Verde", which is green - the
 the main "Rio Verde" is the "Rio Verde", which is green
 a half mile, therefore, the water is greenish as in also
 that of the "Cerro Verde" - The road is more sandy and the
 soil more dry and less fertile -

Saturday - 10-26-1872 -

We passed the night at the
 "Juncos" - There was good grass for the animals but not
 any water - There was one 1/2 A.M. - coming
 unchanged - General Baker's eight and a half miles
 in route - This is the point where the "Rio Verde"
 course of the name was killed by the Apaches some
 years ago - The country was rolling for here is the "Rio Verde"
 de Agua a name on the San Marcos River and
 and a half mile distant - There is a good and a
 already supply of water here and though the bottom are
 quite narrow yet they are excellent and water is in
 position - Rio Verde is excellent for stock - Nothing
 grass are found very often and water is in the
 find either on the San Marcos or by digging water
 the reached Punta de Agua at 6 A.M. - had breakfast
 and arrived at San Marcos at 10 A.M. - after a

a few miles out on a rough, stony road. The corner of the hill
immediately after passing Puente de Agua. Here was but a
small rivulet running - More of the water is below the sand
bed frequent in its neighborhood and are found in holes
at times of over a hundred - In milk we caught a large
snake - It is a handsome creature and measures 5'8"
It is the same variety which I have frequently seen in air
shows in the United States, exhibited under the name
of "eye snake" - They are handsome and as quick as
a cat - They have a white between the eyes which may
be exhibited into a cross, and in this aspect, which is
very favorable for the snake, their eyes are held open
in many instances - Some think the exhibition of the
San Marcos water is due to the fact he had one which was
brought out by me on the Rio Negro
which measured nearly 100 - They are water in the
water on dry ground, grass, mice, rabbits &
and are in many localities near the mountains -
San Marcos is upon the left bank of the small stream
of the same name about 60 miles N.E. of Guaymas and
about 60 miles north of the town of Guaymas - Including a small
population in the opposite bank there is about 100000
It is situated in a mining district and is owned and
worked by a San Francisco Company - The mine
are about 1/2 mile distant - The mine - They were
worked in the early days of the Guaymas and gave
out handsome profits - In the hands of our country
men they have been held since - although the company
has put up a mine with 20 shafts, have another mine
on at least - it is such a depth that there is not any
pit in the ore - The main shaft is 70 ft deep - and
the ore at the mine - the ore - among others 55