

**MEXICO, OLD AND
NEW: A
WONDER-LAND**

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Mexico, old and new: a wonder-land by Sullivan Holman McCollester

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SULLIVAN HOLMAN MCCOLLESTER

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PORFIRIO DIAZ,
President of the Republic of Mexico.

MEXICO

Old and New

A WONDER-LAND

BY

SULLIVAN HOLMAN McCOLLESTER

AUTHOR OF "AFTER-THOUGHTS OF FOREIGN LANDS AND CAPITAL CITIES,"
"BABYLON AND NINEVEH THROUGH AMERICAN EYES," AND
"ROUND THE GLOBE IN OLD AND NEW PATHS."

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PREFACE.

If I am so fortunate as to enable the reader of the succeeding pages through mental vision to see things somewhat as I saw them, and to learn the fact, as I did, contrary to my expectation, that the best blood of Mexico at the present time runs in Indian veins, not Castilian, which has come down from the Aztecs, Toltecs, and, perchance, from Egypt and Chaldaea, I shall be glad and amply remunerated.

Previous to my recent wanderings and experience in the new Republic, I had been led to think and fully believe from what I had read and heard that the hope and salvation of Mexico was in the hands of those who looked back to Spain as their mother-country; but I found the actual to be far otherwise. The talent and promise are confined almost exclusively to the so-called Indians. The term Indian has been misleading to our northern people, causing them to judge the natives there to be somewhat similar to the Blackfoot, or Pequoid of Oregon, yet far more degraded. From the advent of Cortez into the country they have been pictured by the Spaniards as a most barbarous and degraded race, pests and burdens to the land. They were made slaves by the Spanish lords, and by their endurance and fortitude they have proved themselves of noble extraction. Their ancestors achieved wondrous works in the way of building pyramids on a grander scale than any on the

banks of the Nile, and temples as marvelous as those whose ruins are now by the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Their cities were on a magnificent scale. The structures of the Spaniards in the land are not comparable to those which they supplanted.

Mexico is an ancient land. Its history can be definitely traced to A. D. 640, and traditionally much farther back, perhaps, far beyond the Christian era. My aim has been to see present affairs as they exist, and be led to understand past things as they actually were. The physical, mental, moral, and religious have claimed my attention, and in judging of them, I have endeavored to be fair and just. Mexico, ancient and modern, is a marvelous country.

The illustrations were taken by an accompanying friend, Benj. F. Freeman of Somerville, Mass., who is a professional artist and photographer. I know the pictures are true to life.

My object has not been to make this an exhaustive work, but simply sketchy, cheery, instructive, and helpful to mind and heart. As it goes forth on its mission, should it prove to be such, abundant will be the reward of the Author.

MAPLESIDE, MARLBOROUGH, N. H.,
1897.

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