

**THE SILVER COUNTRY, OR, THE GREAT
SOUTHWEST: A REVIEW OF THE MINERAL AND
OTHER WEALTH, THE ATTRACTIONS AND
MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER
KINGDOM OF NEW SPAIN, COMPRISING,
MEXICO AND THE MEXICAN CESSIONS TO THE
UNITED STATES IN 1848 AND 1853**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649704903

The Silver Country, Or, the Great Southwest: A Review of the Mineral and Other Wealth, the Attractions and Material Development of the Former Kingdom of New Spain, Comprising, Mexico and the Mexican Cessions to the United States in 1848 and 1853 by Alex. D. Anderson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ALEX. D. ANDERSON

**THE SILVER COUNTRY, OR, THE GREAT
SOUTHWEST: A REVIEW OF THE MINERAL AND
OTHER WEALTH, THE ATTRACTIONS AND
MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER
KINGDOM OF NEW SPAIN, COMPRISING,
MEXICO AND THE MEXICAN CESSIONS TO THE
UNITED STATES IN 1848 AND 1853**

THE
SILVER COUNTRY

OR

THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

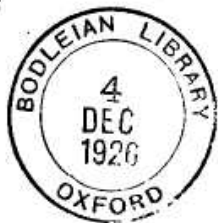
A REVIEW OF THE MINERAL AND OTHER WEALTH, THE
ATTRactions AND MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
FORMER KINGDOM OF NEW SPAIN, COMPRISING
MEXICO AND THE MEXICAN CESSIONS
TO THE UNITED STATES IN
1848 AND 1853

BY

ALEX. D. ANDERSON

NEW YORK
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
182 FIFTH AVENUE
1877

COPYRIGHT, 1877.
By G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS.



PREFACE.

NO work on New Spain, considered as a whole, has been published since the close of the war with Mexico, when half of the territory known by that name was acquired by the United States; and, on the subject of its resources, no work since Ward's "Mexico," issued in 1827. That valuable book was published in London, is little known in this country, and is to be found in very few of our public libraries. So, for all practical purposes, Baron Humboldt's "Political Essay on New Spain," translated into English, and published in London in 1822, is the latest authority. Books on individual States or Territories of the Southwest are, however, abundant. But a general or more comprehensive review seems to be needed for business and other purposes.

The Southwest, in the early part of the sixteenth century, because of its mineral wealth and luxuries, excited the admiration of the whole world. It is once more coming into great prominence, and is destined to play a leading part on the stage of

public affairs, both national and international. The advance of internal improvements through its territory, and the beginning of a new era of material development, is reuniting New Spain in an industrial and commercial sense, and makes necessary a grouping together of local facts and statistics into a general work. Such a combination of statistics gives wonderful results, for Mexico, prolific in treasures, golden California, and silver Nevada come within its limits.

New Spain seems to be the natural and most convenient territorial basis for a book, for the reason that it was, for three hundred years, from 1521, when Cortez and his soldiers accomplished the conquest, until 1821, when Mexico declared her independence, ruled by the Spaniards, who were very prolific writers, and who in their many histories observed the same territorial limits. Again, the country, as a whole, is very uniform in its characteristics, such as general prevalence of silver, high table-lands, ancient history prior to the Spanish rule, and in many other respects.

This is a book of facts, not theories. It describes the land of silver, and shows that the Southwest is producing, each year, two-thirds of the silver of the whole world; but it does not attempt to discuss the merits of a double standard of gold and silver. It treats of railways generally, and

gives facts and figures showing how these great civilizers have neglected the Southwest; but it does not advocate any individual enterprise. It freely expresses its admiration for undeveloped Mexico; but it does not join in any cry for another conquest, except so far as the future conquest may consist of the advance of railways, a thrifty civilization in place of the inertia of the present lethargic races, of commerce and the arts of peace, all of which will stimulate the material prosperity of both Republics. It does not profess to be a full review of the varied riches and attractions of the Southwest, as such a review would require several large volumes. But it does claim to be accurate, and the authorities are freely cited, in legal brief style, to confirm the accuracy of all statements and statistics. Nature was so profusely liberal in the endowment of this portion of the earth's surface, that facts about the riches of the Southwest furnish the writer with abundant material, and it is unnecessary to draw on the imagination to make out a case.

Much time and labor have been spent in the search for and examination of the various books composing the list in the chapter on Authorities; and it is believed that chapter will be serviceable to the reader, for the reason that of the one hundred and twenty-nine volumes on Old Mexico,

about half, and that the best half, were published in London, and have a very limited circulation in this country.

The author hopes that the facts and figures in the following pages will act as an appetizer for more, and will attract the attention of the reader to the rich feast of information which the Spanish, English, and American discoverers, travelers, and historians have prepared in their many volumes.

The elevations of the southern or Mexican half of New Spain, as given in the accompanying map, are from an hypsometric map in Geiger's "Peep at Mexico," published at London in 1874. For the illustration of the elevations of the northern half of New Spain (now a portion of the United States) the author is indebted to W. H. Holmes, Esq., of Prof. Hayden's Survey, who prepared the map, to correspond to that of Mexico, from data contained in the detailed and elaborate hypsometric map issued by that Survey during the present year.

The railway lines are from recent official and other reliable sources.

ALEX. D. ANDERSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *October, 1877.*

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTIVE NOTES.

- Definition, 11 — Bounderies, 15 — Area and comparisons, 19 —
Table-lands and elevations, 21 — Its remarkable situation, 25.

CHAPTER II.

ITS WEALTH IN SILVER AND GOLD.

The treasures of the Toltecs and Aztecs.....	29
Working of the mines by the Toltecs and Aztecs.....	36
Product of silver and gold of Mexico, 1521-1804.....	39
Product of silver and gold of Mexico, 1804-1848.....	41
Product of silver and gold of Mexico, 1848-1876.....	42
Product of silver and gold of California, 1848-1876.....	43
Product of silver and gold of Nevada, 1848-1876.....	45
Product of silver and gold of Arizona, 1848-1876.....	46
Product of silver and gold of New Mexico, 1848-1876.....	47
Product of silver and gold of Utah, 1848-1876.....	48
Product of silver and gold of Southern and Western Colorado, 1848-1876.....	49
Total product of silver and gold of the Southwest or New Spain, 1521-1876.....	50