ART. XXX.—*Meteoric Iron from Coahuila, Mexico*; by
N. T. LUPTON.

WHILE on a visit to Mexico in July, 1879, I was shown a mass of iron, said to be a meteorite, near the house of a gentleman who lived in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, a small town in the State of Coahuila about 120 miles south of Eagle Pass, Texas. According to information received at the time, this meteorite was found in the desert between Santa Rosa and the city of Chihuahua, about one hundred miles distant from the former place, and was brought to Santa Rosa by a Mexican named Juan Garca. I was also told that twelve years previous to my visit an expedition was sent out to bring in several similar masses from the same locality, which were secured and sent to the United States by Dr. Butcher, an American who was then living at Candela. The mass from which I succeeded in detaching about half a pound was said to weigh 192 lbs., but I had no means at hand to verify this weight. It was of irregular shape, measuring in three perpendicular directions 13, 11, 8 inches. A small piece had apparently been cut from one end. Owing to its strong resemblance to common malleable

iron, and to the fact that nitric acid failed to develop the so-called Widmannstätten figures on a surface carefully polished, I was led to doubt the statement of its origin. Since that time, however, my attention has been called to the article of Dr. Lawrence Smith on "Coahuila Meteorites of 1868" in this Journal, vol. xlvii, page 383, and in his "Scientific Researches," page 346, in which several similar masses are spoken of as having been brought to this country from near Santa Rosa. This induced me to analyze carefully a portion of the piece now in my possession with the following results.

Iron	91.86	Cobalt	.50
Nickel	7.42	Phosphorus...	.27

Dr. Smith's analysis of a specimen from one of the masses above mentioned yielded :

Iron	92.95	Cobalt.....	.48
Nickel.....	6.62	Phosphorus...	.02
Copper, very minute quantity.			

The similarity of composition in connection with other circumstances convinces me that these are, in all probability, fragments of the same meteorite. It is proper to state that after careful examination I failed to find the least trace of copper.

According to the account which Dr. Smith received from Dr. Butcher, a brilliant meteor passed over the town of Santa Rosa in the fall of 1837 and was heard to explode with a tremendous report after its disappearance among the mountains toward the northwest. Search was made for it the next day by Dr. Long of Santa Rosa with a party of friends, but without success. Some years later, Dr. Butcher undertook the search, an interesting account of which is given in the article above referred to.

Dr. Smith remarks that while it matters little whether the time specified is that of the fall of these masses, nevertheless, "it forms one of the most interesting groupings of meteoric irons known in any part of the world, especially as the masses are solid and compact, and not fragile and half stony, as the Atacama iron, that may have been broken artificially after its fall, and the fragments scattered by Indians and explorers in search of silver. Each one of these masses merits a separate examination, which I hope to be able to give sooner or later to satisfy my mind on one or two points connected with their common physical and chemical composition."

Dr. Smith's description is applicable to the specimen in my possession.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.