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Notes on Arizona

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uniform. They still manifest the primitive love of feathers and a liking for bright bits of cloth, and the women rub a red colour on their faces, which shines like a concealed fire. Although they have breech-loading rifles of the latest pattern, bows and arrows were found in the Lava Beds. I managed to get one of these bows and two arrows, which I sent home to Mr. Franks for the British Museum. Flint-headed arrows are still used, and one of those I sent home had a piece of obsidian for the head. They still poison their arrows; the poison is made from a coyoté's liver, which is kept till it becomes putrid, and a rattle-snake is made to bite it, so that it is injected with the deadly poison. With this the arrows are touched, not on the points, but on the shaft close to the arrow-head. I need scarcely say that even with the Indians these primitive weapons are become things of the past; I was told that only old men and boys use them now.

Cremation is a custom with the Indians; and during the three days' attack on the Lava Beds large fires were seen, which were supposed to be the burning of the dead with the larger roots of sage-brush. Only four dead bodies were found after the stronghold was evacuated; and from some ashes and teeth being discovered, it was supposed that they had burned those who were killed in the earlier part of the fighting.

2. *Notes on Arizona.* By the Hon. CHARLES D. POSTON, U.S.

ARIZONA is a territory of the United States of America. It is formed out of that part of the State of Sonora which was acquired by the United States from Mexico—the portion north of the Gila River having been ceded by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, and the portion south of the Gila River having been purchased by the Gadsden Treaty in 1853, for the consideration of ten million dollars.

A civil government was organised for the recently-acquired territory, by an Act of the United States Congress, approved by President Lincoln, on the 24th February, 1863. This Act of Congress first defined the name of the new territory as “Arizona,” the Spaniards having formerly called it *Arizuma*, after the Aztecs; the name probably meaning rocky country, from *ari*—rock, *suma*—country. The territory contains 77,383,680 acres of land, and is divided into five counties. The civil government of the territory is under control of a governor and executive staff, appointed by the President of the United States, assisted by a legislature composed of a council of nine, and a House of Representatives of eighteen members, elected by the people. This legislature, with the approval of the executive, enacts the local laws; but all their acts are subject to the approbation of the Federal Congress at Washington.

The first account given to the European world of this part of the American continent was the romantic story of Friar Marco de Niza, who made an expedition among the Indians of this region in 1535. He reported a semi-civilized people, living in stone houses, dressing in clothes of their own manufacture, tending flocks and herds, cultivating the soil, and practising the arts of peace. This account led to the celebrated expedition of Coronado, which was organised and conducted under the patronage of the vice-royalty of New Spain in 1540.

The Indians described by the early Spanish explorers live in the north-eastern part of the territory, about 6000 feet above the level of the sea, in seven towns, which the Spaniards called the “Seven Cities of Cibola” (the Cities of the Buffalo). The Spaniards called every hamlet a “city,” and every stream a “river.” These Indians are called “Moquis.” Their villages are in lat. 35° 55', long. 110° 42', contain some six thousand souls, and have excited more than ordinary curiosity.

Without inquiry into the origin of these interesting Moquis, we know that they at present inhabit their mountain fastnesses, composed of seven federated towns. Each town is built around a rectangular court, with stone walls, without any gates or doors, the inhabitants ascending and descending by ladders, which are taken in at night for safety against predatory incursions. The successive storeys are set back, one behind another, in pyramidal form, the lower rooms being reached through trap-doors. The arrangement is as strong and compact as could well be devised; but the strength of the position does not protect the flocks and herds of these mountain pastorals from the depredations of their nomadic neighbours, the Apaches and the Navajoes, who make continual incursions, and carry off great numbers of their sheep, cattle, and horses.

The Moquis have small hands and feet, but ordinary figures; their hair is fine and glossy. The men wear loose cotton trousers, and frequently a kind of blouse for an upper garment, over which they throw a blanket. The dress of the women is a loose woollen gown, with a gold-coloured stripe around the waist and the bottom of the skirt, the stripe being of cotton, which they grow in small quantities, the material of the dress being wool of their own weaving. They are a harmless, well-meaning people, industrious, and honest for Indians. They lack force of character, and the courageous qualities of their neighbours. The Moquis are identical in race, manners, habits, and mode of living; but, singularly enough, although living within a circuit of ten miles, they do not all speak the same language, as they have had petty feuds, and abandoned the habit of visiting each other, until the languages have gradually become dissimilar.

The Pima Indians, who have a row of villages on the Gila River, 180 miles above its mouth, are very interesting aborigines. They have inhabited their present location from time immemorial, and have preserved no tradition of their migration. Their government is conducted by an hereditary chieftain, assisted by a council of sages, and their laws are administered with wisdom and justice.

The Pima Indians have for ages cultivated the soil for subsistence. They produce wheat, corn, pulse, melons, pumpkins, tobacco, cotton, grapes, and vegetables, and rear horses, cattle, sheep, poultry, &c. &c. They were weaving cotton for their own clothes when the Spaniards first discovered them, and samples of their manufacture were sent to Spain by the *Conquistadores*.

If they practise any religion, it is the worship of the sun. At sunset a preacher mounts the ruins of a former temple and delivers an oration to the parting luminary, and at sunrise the coming of the source of all life is hailed by some devotee with a like ceremony. The Pimas, as all North American Indians, believe in a Great Spirit, and a future state of rewards and punishments. They are very superstitious about "Cuetes," or spirits of the departed, and believe that they are yet hovering about them for good or for evil.

The village numbers some seven thousand inhabitants, and a more orderly, contented, and happy community can scarcely be found. They bury their dead, and can never be induced to mention their names afterwards. The Pimas have kept up a desultory warfare or defence of their plantations against the inroads of the nomadic Apaches, who have always been enemies of their peaceable and industrious neighbours. They make frequent campaigns against the Apaches, and often diminish the number of their savage enemies. Upon returning to their villages, if the Pima warriors have shed the blood of their enemies, they paint their faces black and fast until the next new moon. If they have not shed blood, they return to their homes with their faces painted white, and, without doing penance, enter into the enjoyments of domestic life. The chastity of the Pima women is remarkable, and but few well-founded charges can be brought against their virtue. The old men attribute the chastity

of their women to early marriages, and the facility given by custom for the exchange of an unsatisfactory companion—the young being allowed to “swap” or exchange partners if the union proves unhappy or unfruitful.

Avarice, or the accumulation of wealth amongst the Pimas, is reduced to a minimum by a custom which may be practicable in primitive communities. All property accumulated during life reverts to the community after death of the owner; the domicile of the deceased and his personal effects are burned for purification. A Pima Indian, therefore, has no inducement to acquire property beyond the wants of this life, as it cannot descend to his posterity.

In several parts of the territory are to be found the ruins of a pre-historic race. Near the Pima villages are the “Casas Grandes,” or grand houses of the Aztecs, or Toltecs, or whoever inhabited this region thousands of years ago. They have left no history, but the relics of a civilisation which puzzle the antiquary.

The *débris*, and remains of broken pottery, would indicate that this city covered an area of about ten miles, but of all the houses which formed the city the shadow of but one remains. It seems to have been a citadel or granary, as it is situated near the centre of the city. It was built of mud pressed in moulds and dried in the sun, and was composed of many small apartments, none of them very high. Five rows of joists may yet be counted, indicating five storeys; and from the fact that they are all burnt off to the wall, this house seems to have been destroyed by fire. About ten years ago I extricated one of the joists from the wall, and placed it in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington; it bears evidence of having been cut with a stone axe.

The city which formerly existed here was furnished with water by a canal from the Gila River, which also irrigated a valley of land now desolate. The remains of the canal indicate a width of 10 yards and a depth of 4.

As to the former inhabitants and their history, all is left to conjecture. We know nothing of their origin, their manner of life, their politics or religion, of their loves or hate, of their morality or their immorality. The only monument of their existence left upon earth stands there, in the solitude of the desert, as mysterious, as silent, as unreadable, as the Egyptian Sphinx.

One hundred miles south of this monument of a perished race stands another monument of another civilisation. It is the Mission Church of San Xavier del Bac, erected by the Jesuits A.D. 1668. In the dim mirage of the desert these architectural sentinels stand confronting each other. The first represents the shadowy past, the second the epoch of Christian civilisation. The latter would be an ornament to any city in Europe or America.

The weary emigrant, who has made his perilous journey across the North American continent in search of the land of gold, is surprised as he emerges from the forest to behold a specimen of Saracenic architecture, with dome and tower, and fancifully decorated façade. It appeared to me a magical creation, as it stood in bold relief against the western sun; and, marvel of architecture as it is, in this remote place, the impression is heightened when you enter the sanctuary, and hear the same vespers chanted which follow the setting sun from Rome around the world. The mission is surrounded by Indians of the Pima tribe, called, on account of their baptism, Papagos. They number some 6000, and inhabit the arid region between the Santa Cruz river and the Colorado of the West.

In the archives of the Society of Jesus may be found an interesting account of the wanderings of Father Kino in this mysterious country. The Jesuits followed up these explorations by establishing missions among the natives, many of which remain to the present day in a somewhat dilapidated condition. The avarice and tyranny of the Spaniards, who were engaged in

mining in the vicinity of the missions, exasperated the Indians to revolt, and in 1680 the Apaches commenced a war of extermination. The wily Jesuits gave it in charge to their neophytes to preserve the sacred buildings, and assured their converts, with the sublime faith of their Order, that as sure as the sun shone, water ran, and grass grew, they would one day return and resume their sacred duties.

It was one of the strange episodes of life, that during my service of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Arizona, under the Government of the United States, it was my fortune to reinstall the Fathers of the Society of Jesus in their ancient mission of San Xavier del Bac. The Indians received them with firing of rockets, ringing bells, strewing flowers, and every demonstration of joy.

The Colorado of the West was explored by Captain Fernando Alarçon about the middle of the sixteenth century. It was surveyed by Lieutenant Ives, under orders of the United States Government, in 1857. It is now navigated by American steamboats 500 miles from its mouth, and many thriving towns and villages are located upon its banks.

The principal Indian tribes inhabiting the Colorado are the Cocopas, the Yumas, the Mohaves, the Chemihuevis, the Hualapis, and the Yavapis. The Indians on the banks of this river number about 10,000, are a stalwart race, live upon fish, game, wild fruits, and simple productions cultivated by the overflow of the river. They worship the Great Spirit, practise polygamy, and cremate the dead. At the mouth of the Colorado River the "bore" caused by the spring tides makes a rise and fall of some 30 feet. Five hundred miles above the mouth of the Colorado occurs a phenomenon unique upon earth—it is the great gorge or cañon of the Colorado. This cañon is 217 miles long, and the walls vary in height from 4000 to 6233 feet. At the greatest elevation the width of the chasm is from 5 to 10 miles. For ages the great river has been cutting its bed down through the limestone, down through the sandstone, down into the granite. How long has it taken the attrition of the sand-bearing stream to cut its way 200 miles long and 6000 feet deep?

The bottom lands of the Colorado are very rich, and admirably adapted to the production of sugar, cotton, rice, corn, melons, and vegetables; but as the rains are not sufficient for cultivation, irrigating canals must be opened before these lands can be made productive, and then, with the fertilising waters of the Colorado, they may become as prolific as the valley of the Nile.

The Apache Indians inhabit the north-eastern portion of the territory of Arizona, roaming over portions of Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, and the adjoining Mexican States of Sonora and Chihuahua. They are estimated at about 15,000 souls. These savages have been the scourge of civilisation for more than three centuries of our history; and for ages before, from the indications of remaining fortifications, the strife existed between these robbers of the mountains and the more peaceable and industrious aborigines inhabiting the valleys. The Apaches defied the Spaniards, the Mexicans, and the Americans. With the latter they maintained a *quasi* peace, until the breaking out of the civil war in 1861, when they added the horrors of Indian outrage to the distress of internecine strife. The country lying between the Rio Grande and the Colorado was desolated by these savages. They are excellent horsemen, well skilled in the use of arms, inured to hardship and endurance. Their homes were in the mountain fastnesses, from which they sallied forth to rob and plunder the valleys. Their carnival is now over, and they are confined to reservations under charge of United States troops, and are being taught the hard lesson to work for subsistence.

The territory, generally supposed to be arid, is watered by several important streams. The Colorado has already been alluded to as being navi-

gable 500 miles on the western boundary of the territory, and empties into the Gulf of California, called formerly the Sea of Cortez. The Gila River rises in New Mexico, and, running westerly through the territory, empties into the Colorado, opposite Fort Yuma. Salt River rises in the northern part of the territory, and empties into the Gila, near the Pima villages. The San Pedro River rises in Sonora, and empties into the Gila. The Santa Cruz River rises near the Mexican boundary, and runs in a north-westerly direction towards the Gila; but its waters are consumed in irrigation. There are many small streams, all contributing finally to the Colorado, and flowing into the Pacific waters.

The mountains are the most prominent natural features of Arizona. In the northern part of the territory the San Francisco Mountain rises to an altitude of 12,000 feet above the level of the sea. Its snowy summit is visible for a radius of 100 miles. In the southern part of the territory the Santa Rita Mountains are the most conspicuous, being about 7000 feet high. The whole country is composed of vast plains, crossed from north to south by broken ranges of mountains. The plains are covered with nutritious grasses, and the mountains are supposed to contain minerals.

The Spaniards found near the boundary line the largest masses of pure silver which have been found in the New World, and ores of gold, silver, copper, lead, and iron have been discovered in many localities. Rock salt of a pure quality is found in the mountains, and the lagoons bordering the Gulf of California furnish an inexhaustible supply of this necessary, thrown up by the tides and purified by the sun.

The indigenous trees of Arizona differ materially from the American forest growth. The Mesquite-tree, an acacia, grows in the lower altitudes, and produces an annual crop of beans, which are very nutritious for animals, and used by the Indians for making bread, and also for making whisky. A prolific mesquite-tree will yield 10 bushels of beans annually. The *Cereus giganteus* is the most singular of the forest growth. This tree sometimes rises to a height of 50 feet without limb or leaf. It has a columnar, fluted body, covered with thorns, and bears a fruit at the crown, which the Indians gather when ripe, expressing the juice for molasses, and making the pulp into a cake of bread for the winter. The river-bottoms are lined with cotton woods, and the mountains bear an abundant growth of live oak and yellow pine. Wild hemp, the sunflower, and the poppy, attest the generosity of the soil and the geniality of the climate.

The American aloe, or maguey plant, grows in great abundance on the hill-sides and mountains, and is an important natural production. The head is formed in leaves like the artichoke, and grows to the size of a cabbage, being protected by sharp bayonet-like shoots 8 to 10 feet high. These being cut away with long knives, the Indians and Mexicans gather the head and utilise it in various ways. If roasted it makes excellent food, something like a roasted pumpkin, but more astringent. It may be boiled down to a syrup and form a saccharine feast; but the highest delight of the natives is to manufacture this mountain luxury into an intoxicating drink called "mescal." This is done in a primitive way, by fermenting the mashed head of the maguey in a raw hide, stretched on poles in the sun, and distilling the juice in a rude alembic. The extract has very much the appearance and flavour of Scotch whisky, and has consoled many a weary traveller in that region besides myself. The fibre is manufactured into ropes, mats, carpets, and saddle blankets. A green tree, producing a pleasant and nutritious pea, grows in the low lands.

The indigenous potato, or "comote," is found on the mountain sides in its native coarseness. Even in the desert a food is produced from a parasite classed as "*Ammabroma Sonora*," or the sand-food of Sonora, which re-

sembles the sweet-potato in shape and flavour. Amole, the native soap-plant, is a curious natural production, and is used by the natives for the laundry; it washes flannels without causing shrinking, and is considered a great preservative of the hair, making it as glossy as if oiled. The cactus in many varieties is found in all parts of the territory, and botanists will discover in this remote region many rare and unknown productions.

The fruits grown in the territory are apples, peaches, apricots, oranges, figs, grapes, pomegranates, pears, lemons, and quinces. On account of the open plains, and absence of dense forests, wild game is not so abundant in Arizona as other territories of Western America, and the rivers furnish a very small quantity or variety of fish. The buffalo does not roam so far west as Arizona. The principal game is bear, deer, antelopes, hares, wild turkeys, and the peculiar top-knot quail. The Mexican paysano, or road-runner, flits continually before the hunter, and furnishes stories for the ignorant by his supposed aptitude in killing snakes. The reptile family are abundant, and grow to a large size, the rattlesnake furnishing the greatest variety. The escupion, or Mexican spitter, is regarded by the superstitious natives as poisonous, but an examination of its fangs has proved it entirely harmless. Tarantulas of the largest size are found in Arizona, and the centipede is frequently a more familiar than welcome bed-fellow. Lizards, scorpions, alicrans, horned frogs, and such diminutive reptiles, may be found in interesting variety.

The first exploration of the territory of Arizona, after its acquisition by the United States, was made by a company, under my command, in 1856. After a weary march of 1500 miles, through hostile Indian tribes, we established head-quarters at Tubac, on the Santa Cruz River, and planted in this far-off wilderness the germs of Western civilisation. The nearest military post was a hundred leagues, and a mail from Washington did not reach this remote outpost in less than 60 days. At the present day we are in telegraphic communication with the principal towns in the territory, and United States mails are distributed with celerity and safety to all prominent points. Daily and weekly newspapers are published in the principal towns.

A railway is projected and in course of construction across the continent, on the 32nd parallel, which will pass through the territory, and bring it into more intimate relations with the rest of the world.

The territorial capital and seat of the supreme court is Tucson, a town south of the Gila, containing a population of 3500. The most important town north of the Gila is Prescott, named after the historian of Mexico. This town is beautifully located in the lap of the mountains, is the head-quarters of the military department, and contains a population of 1200 souls.

The population of the territory may be estimated at 50,000 Indians and 25,000 whites. The latter are principally engaged in agricultural, mining, grazing, and commercial pursuits.

The valleys, so far as they have been cultivated, have proved wonderfully productive, and with the assistance of irrigation, two crops annually can be gathered from the same soil. The agricultural productions are cotton, sugar, corn, wheat, barley, and vegetables.

In the area of 120,000 square miles of land comprised in the territorial limits, it may be safely stated that a moiety produces the most nutritious grasses all the year round, capable of sustaining millions of cattle without expense.

From the level of the sea, in latitude $31^{\circ} 20'$, to an altitude of 1200 feet in latitude 37° north, any desirable temperature may be obtained.