



Benjimin Diaz

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CAMPBELL'S

NEW REVISED

COMPLETE GUIDE AND DESCRIPTIVE BOOK

OF

MEXICO

By REAU CAMPBELL

CHICAGO
1906



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Preface.

IT IS the early traveler in a country who knows the real need of a guide and descriptive book, from the fact that his journeys are made, perforce, without one, and he is compelled to find the places and things as best he can.

To find these places and things, of which one may have only heard, is not unattended by difficulties. The native does not always regard them as out of the ordinary, or of special interest, and, however courteous and willing he may be, is not always able to show the way to objects of even considerable importance.

I have known these difficulties as an early traveler in Mexico, and, while I rejoiced in seeing what others had not seen, I have wished for the book that might guide me over untraveled roads, till I have come to believe that he who writes the book leaves a legacy to him who comes after.

The Guide and Descriptive Book of Mexico is written after the experiences of a decade of travel in that country, and an exploring expedition made expressly to secure a better acquaintance with the country, these have given a knowledge of its cities and towns, of its mountains, valleys and spreading plains, and of its history and legend, impossible from reading or hearsay.

The Historical and Clerical data have been carefully culled from the best authorities and from the records of Church and State.

The Legends are from the country's books and from the fascinating folklore of its people.

Statistical and tabulated information is compiled from the latest data and from the most reliable sources.

The Maps are from the latest surveys, comprising the extension of railways and routes of travel to the year of the date of the book.

The Descriptions have been written under the spell; in the presence of an atmosphere of romantic adventure; while loitering in the fields of the Conquest; under the shadows of ruined temples, whose describing by the ancient chronicler suffices, and of which no more is known to-day than then, when it was written by him that those temples were, "the work of a people

which had passed away, under the assaults of barbarism, at a period prior to all traditions, leaving no name, and no trace of their existence save those monuments, which, neglected and forgotten by their successors, have become the riddle of later generations."

The Illustrations are from photographs taken during tours of the country and engraved directly from those photographs, without redrawing. The tour of exploration was made for the express purpose of the publication of a guide and descriptive book, that should guide and describe for the traveler or reader of Mexico.

Every date and place of the story of Mexico, from the Grand River of the North to Tehautepec, is noted compactly and with all the accuracy possible. Every city and town of note which has been written of elsewhere has its place here; there are some not found in other books which are in these pages, and none are more important or more interesting than the pre-historic Ruins of Mitla, visited first by my exploring expedition of 1894, and which are here written of for the first time since the earlier chronicles of the country.

To the courteous citizens of the country I traveled in, to the strangers of America, England, France, Spain and Germany abiding there, to the Railway officials especially, and to my co-travelers and explorers I am indebted; to the expert artists of the engravers' craft, and of the art preservative, who have made a culmination so devoutly wished, I am deeply grateful.

REAU CAMPBELL.

Chicago, January 1, 1895.

POSTSCRIPT.

After a book is in print it is the cold type that shows so glaringly the faults of omission and commission, not more apparent to any one than to its author—especially if that author has continued the study of his subject

Since the first edition of this work was printed I have not ceased to travel in the country it describes—and if I knew Mexico then, and a generous public has attested that, I should know it better now; and I have left out some things that ought to have been omitted before and added that which I should not have left out at all—till now the work is well nigh complete, as nearly so as any book of its kind may be, where an advancing civilization changes its pages almost ere they are written.

R. C.

January, 1904.