

PART SECOND

A Ride to Tacubaya.

Ah! Mr Fisher, Good morning; where are you going?—Mr. F. I am going to Tacubaya on a little business.—That's fortunate, I am going there too and shall be glad of your company. Let us wait here for the train. What a lovely day it is! isn't it?—Yes, at this time of the year, I think the weather is most enjoyable; but here comes our train, I believe.—No, it is a Tacuba train; well, ours will soon be here; so long as I am at Tacubaya by 7.30, *it does not matter*; ⁽¹⁾ I am to meet a gentleman who is much occupied during the day. He is a very punctual man, and if I am not at his house at the time named, he will not wait for me: I know he has another engagement at 9. Here comes a train; what is it?—Oh, it is a Tlaxpana train. Here's another, a Colonia; and, still another, a Reforma.—These trains seem to run regardless of any kind of time table.—*Never mind*, ⁽²⁾ let us

(1) (2) No importa.

have little patience; you know the old proverb, Patience is a virtue. —Yes, *that's all very well;* ⁽³⁾ but, by exercising too much patience, I may miss my appointment with Mr. Lopez. What is the time?—It is just 7, and here comes the Tacubaya train, Get in. What is that large building on the left?—That is Belem, the prison; it has accommodation for no less than four thousand inmates, and it is always full, sad to say.—Yes, there seems to be a great deal of crime among these unfortunate creatures; you see them being led off in troops to the Police Station, especially on Monday mornings. I have seen as many as thirty in a party; chiefly, I believe guilty of minor offences, quarrelling, drunkenness, fighting. They are punished by being made to do light work, such as sweeping the streets, cleaning out offices &c.—Are not some of these people adepts in the art of stealing? I have heard so.—Yes, sad to relate, they are. But we are all hoping for better things.—Is not that the new bull-ring?—Yes, it was opened last Sunday, with cheap prices, \$.75 sol.—I should have thought there was not room for another bull-ring in Mexico.—You are mistaken: bull-fighting is the national sport, and people will do almost anything to find money to go to a bull-

(3) Esta es muy bien.

fight, even *go without food,* ⁽⁴⁾ pawn their watches, borrow money. There is a perfect mania for the sport among a certain class.—Did you ever go to one?—Yes, and only one, it was quite enough for me. I see, that, at Durango they have forbidden women to enter a bull-ring; I think that is a very wise thing; it is certainly no place for women and children.—The poor horses, I am told, are the greatest sufferers in the sport. People who know, say that the bull does not suffer so much as one would imagine, because he is in a state of excitement the whole time.—There may be some truth in that; but I do not like the bull-fight under any conditions. Every one to his taste, you know.

There is the historical Castle of Chapultepec. I never pass it without thinking of the poor boy martyrs of 1847. It was truly a slaughter of the innocents. I was present at the annual Commemoration of that event, last September. It was held in the beautiful amphitheatre in the Castle grounds, and was one of the most imposing ceremonies I have ever witnessed. General Diaz presided, and was accompanied by most of the military authorities of the Republic. The weather was perfect and seemed to lend its aid to make the occasion worthy of the event

(4) Ir sin alimento.

to be celebrated. Some fine speeches were made by "born orators"; and in those speeches there was a remarkable absence of anything unfriendly to the American people. But, what charmed me most was a beautiful hymn composed expressly for the occasion, and sung by a number of school children, with a lovely accompaniment by the string band that was engaged for the purpose. The exquisite rendering of that charming composition has left an everlasting impression on my memory. At the termination of the ceremony, beautiful wreaths of flowers were carried to the monument erected to the memory of these brave young fellows, and deposited there by the President and his associates. It was certainly a day to be remembered; a red letter day in my life.—What is that stone work on the left?—It is the remnant of a very fine aqueduct, built by the Spaniards in the early days of their rule here.

Mexico is spreading very fast in this direction; in a short time there will be quite a large township near Chapultepec; there is a great demand for houses in the locality; and the Germans are building a fine school in the neighbourhood. It will be on the most modern plans, and perfectly adapted to all necessary requirements of to-day.

Well, here we are at our destination; I have

enjoyed your company very much.—The feeling is mutual I assure you.—Good-bye.

An early morning Visit.

Mr. Parker. Good morning, Mr. Smith; where are you going so early? it is only half-past six; I thought you never went to your office till eight. Mr. Smith.—*You may well*⁽¹⁾ be surprised; but the fact is, I am going to see a gentleman on very urgent private business, and *I want to catch him*⁽²⁾ before he goes to his office. With me, as with him, time is money; we are both very busy all day—at this time of the year, especially so; and he has asked me to come to his house before he goes to business, that we may talk over an important private matter.—Mr. P. Well, good-bye, I won't detain you.—Mr. S. Good bye.—(Mr. S. arrives at the house of his friend Mr. Archer, and knocks at the door. Servant opens it.)—Mr. S. Can I see Mr. Archer, please?—Ser. He is not down yet, sir.—Mr. S. Well, he expects me, so you may tell him that Mr. Smith wishes to see him. (Mr. A. from the top of the stairs) Ah: Good morning, friend; come up. (They shake

(1) Con razón

(2) Para asegurarme de verlo

hands) I am glad you have come early; we can talk while I am dressing, *I am sure you won't mind* ⁽³⁾. I have just had my bath: you know I take a cold bath every morning: it is very refreshing, especially at this season of the year. It is a mystery to me that people in good health can go a whole week, and sometimes longer, without a bath. But, that *by the way* ⁽⁴⁾: now to business. I received the letter I expected; and a very important letter it is. The owner of the property wants us both to go to Puebla to see the land. It is about two miles out of the city. Do you think *you can manage* ⁽⁵⁾ to get away for a few days from your office?—Mr. S. Yes, I think I can. *As it happens* ⁽⁶⁾, a friend of our head clerk is on a visit from Veracruz; and, as he thoroughly understands our business, I have very little doubt that we can engage him to take my place for a few days.—Mr. A. That is fortunate; when do you think we can go?—Mr. S. Let me see, this is Thursday; I think we might *venture* ⁽⁷⁾ to say, Monday. I daresay I can arrange matters by that time.—Mr. A. Good: then I will write to say we are coming. I feel sure it will be a good

(3) Yo se que Ud. no tiene nada en contra.

(4) De paso

(5) Arreglar; dirigir

(6) Casualmente

(7) Arriesgar

thing if we can manage to buy this property; I have heard nothing but what is favourable concerning the land in that locality.—Mr. S. Do you think it would be possible to raise maguey on the ground?—I have not the slightest doubt of it; the plant flourishes splendidly, and people who grow it are making rapid fortunes.—Mr. S. A few days ago I heard, in conversation with a gentleman, that they had had two very bad seasons in that locality.—Mr. A. That depends upon what you mean by 'bad seasons'; I know *for a fact* ⁽⁸⁾, that three gentleman in this business *cleared* ⁽⁹⁾ twenty thousand dollars each, only two years ago: that does not sound very bad, does it?—Mr. S. No, certainly that is encouraging. What time does the train *leave* ⁽¹⁰⁾ Mexico for Puebla?—Mr. A. It *starts* ⁽¹¹⁾ at 7.45 I believe.—Mr. S. If I can manage to get away, where shall we meet?—Mr. A. As I am nearer to the station than you are, suppose you come here to breakfast, say, at 6.15, that will not be too early I suppose.—Mr. S. Oh, dear no; you know that I am a very early riser,—Mr. A. Very well, that's settled, then. Shall I see you again before Monday?—Mr. S. Yes, I will *drop in* ⁽¹²⁾ at your office to-morrow

(8) Con seguridad

(9) Ganar

(10 y 11) Salir

(12 y 18) Entrar improviso

and let you know definitely whether I can go: but I do not think there is the slightest doubt of it. Good-bye.—Mr. A. Surely you are not going; you must stay to breakfast with me.—Mr. S. I did not come here to put you to any inconvenience.—Mr. A. Inconvenience, indeed! *my dear fellow*,^[13] one sees so little of you, that your company is quite a pleasure: pray don't talk of inconvenience. Besides, I want you to see what a splendid cook we have. To one like me—I am not in the best of health—it is a consideration to have one's food well cooked. The person I have has been in some of the best hotels in the city: I was fortunate in getting her: I pay her a good salary; but *I do not mind that*:^[14] she is worth all the money I give her: she is really invaluable: she has so many original ideas; one does not get the same kind of dish two days in succession: every day something different: but you shall see, and judge for yourself. It is just half-past seven: she is always punctual; we shall find breakfast ready, I have no doubt: *come along*^[15]. Now, what do you think of that coffee? Is it not excellent! I do not know how she makes it. These omelettes, too: just try them: they are perfectly delicious:

(13) De buen corazón

[14] No me importa

[15] Vamos

then see, how tastefully she *sets out*^[16] the table: there is nothing you can suggest to her to improve matters.—Mr. S. well, I don't wonder that you are *so loud in your praises*^[17] of your cook; she certainly is a treasure. But, what is the time?—Mr. A. It is a quarter past eight.—Mr. S. Then I shall just have time to get to the office: to-morrow morning at nine I will *look in*^[18] and see you, as I said: Good-bye.—Mr. A. good-bye.

At the Grocer's.

Good morning. Passing this way, *I was struck*⁽¹⁾ by the peculiar name of of your store, Lady Smith. To an Englishman, this name calls up rather painful recollections of the late South-African war. One of the most important events of that war, as you may be aware, was the siege and relief of Ladysmith.—Yes, sir, I remember the circumstances.—Well, I did not come here to give you a lecture, but to say that I have just taken a house in this neighbourhood, and wish to open an account with you. We are

[16] Arreglar

(17) Alabar mucho

[18] Llamar

(1) Me llamó mucho la atención.

five in family, so our orders will be rather large. —Thank you, sir; we shall be glad to *wait upon* ^[2] you, and hope we shall give you satisfaction. May I ask you your name and address?—Certainly; here is my card, my name is Mallett, and I was advised to come here, by my friend Mr. Johnson who *has dealt* ^[3] with you for the last year, and *speaks very highly* ^[4] of you.—I am sure we are much obliged to Mr. Johnson.—I notice that you speak English; I am glad of that: though I speak Spanish fairly well, I prefer to use my own language in giving orders.—Naturally so: all the employés in this establishment speak English. We take lessons three times a week from an English gentleman.—How do you find time for that?—We receive the lessons after working hours, from 9 to 10 at night.—Indeed, that is very creditable to you; it shows you appreciate English.—Yes, sir, we find it a great advantage, as so many of our customers are Americans; I suppose you are aware that this is an American colony.—Yes, I know that. Well, now to business; *what are your terms?* ^[5]—We have monthly accounts, sir, and these accounts are STRICTLY monthly. You will pardon

[2] Servir.

[3] Tratar con

[4] Hablar muy bien. —Honorablemente.

[5] Cómo es el pago?

my being a little particular on this point: I think it is always best, in business, to have a clear understanding at the outset; it avoids complications afterwards. We have to settle our bills monthly, or we lose our credit with the merchants; and it is only fair and just that we should expect our customers to *meet their engagements* ^[6] with us.—I much appreciate your *straightforwardness* ^[7] in this matter: you need not apologise; an Englishman is never offended when a man speaks his mind, especially in business transactions, *provided* ^[8] it is not done in an offensive manner. You will find me quite as straightforward as you are: our accounts shall be *met* ^[9] promptly.—Thank you, sir. Do you require anything for immediate use?—Yes, you may send me these goods; I have made a list of them. When can you let me have them?—When you please, sir, say within an hour, as you live so near.—Thank you very much; my wife will call in the morning, and give you another order, a much larger one. Good day.—Good day, sir.—(Mrs. Mallet calls the next morning) The shopman.—*What is your pleasure,* ^[10] madam?

[6] Pagar las facturas.

[7] Sinceridad.

[8] Sí.

[9] Pagado.

[10] Qué quiere Ud.?

—My husband was here yesterday, and made some arrangement with you, I believe, about our supplies.

Yes, Ma'am; you are Mrs. Mallett, I *presume*:⁽¹¹⁾ we shall be very pleased *to wait*⁽¹²⁾ on you.—Well, now, first of all I want some of your very best biscuits: I see you have different kinds; which can you recommend?—Of course, there are no biscuits like Huntley and Palmer's, and Peek, Frean's, the well-known English firms.—You are quite right: how do you keep them?—We have them *in tin boxes*,⁽¹³⁾ ma'am,—Send me two boxes of each of this kind. Now I want some of your very best tea; what have you?—Lipton's and Ridgway's are the favourite here; and we can strongly recommend them; they give general satisfaction—Do you ever mix these teas?—Yes, ma'am, very often: our customers like them mixed.—Please send me three two-pound tins of each. You seem to have a great assortment of tinned fruits.—Yes, ma'am, they are mostly American.—I suppose they are very dear here.—Indeed they are; the duty we have to pay on them is considerably more than the original price of the article: We are obliged to

(11) Yo creo.

(12) Servir.

(13) Hoja de lata.

charge 75 cents for a tin that costs only 15 cents in The States; and that leaves us very little profit.—You certainly astonish me; but *it cannot be helped*.⁽¹⁴⁾—I can assure you madam, that is a fact.—Well, you may send me three cans of apricots, three of apples, and four of peaches. Now I want to see some fancy soaps.—We have several kinds: here are the samples.—Is the old Brown Windsor among them?—Yes, ma'am, we sell a great deal of that.—I will take twelve cakes of it and six of the glycerine. Do you keep mineral waters, the ordinary siphons?—Yes, ma'am.—Send me a dozen.—Please show me some canned fish.—We have kippered herrings, salmon, bloaters and others.—You may send me three tins of each of those you mentioned. Which pickles do you recommend?—Heinz's ma'am are very good.—I prefer Crosse and Blackwell's: they are known all over the world. Send me four bottles of the mixed, and two of Lea and Perrin's sauce. I think you keep whiskey.—Yes, ma'am, many brands.—I like the Cyrus Noble; I will ask you to let me have six pint bottles. I have given you a rather large order; when can I have the goods?—This evening at five, will that be soon enough?—Yes: I have not asked you the prices of some of

(14) No puede evitarse.

these goods, as I have your price list. I want you to let me have the account with the goods; I prefer to pay you for this first order on delivery of the things; that is, I will *look in* ⁽¹⁵⁾ to-morrow and settle.—Thank you very much ma'am; can we show you anything more before you go?—Let me see, I forgot to ask you whether you have any good cheese.—Yes, ma'am, here is some in this case.—Send me three pounds of that kind. (Mrs. M. comes next morning) I have called to settle my account.—Thank you ma'am: as you are good enough to pay cash, we shall be pleased to allow you a discount of five per cent. We hope the goods gave you satisfaction.—Very much so, thank you. Good day—Good day ma'am.

A friendly visit.

Mr. Taylor to the servant. Is Mrs. Lopez at home? Yes, sir, what name, please?—This is my card.—Will you walk into this room sir.—(Servant returns) Mrs. Lopez will be down in a few minutes, sir.—Thank you.—Mrs. Lopez. Good morning Mr. Taylor, you are *quite a stranger*; ⁽¹⁾

(15) Venir.

(1) Que milagro verle Vd!

I have been wondering ⁽²⁾ where you were all this time. Pray be seated, and tell me all the news.—I have been absent from Mexico for about three months: I was called away at a few hours' notice on very urgent business, and had not time to come and say Good-bye: you will pardon me, I know.—Certainly; and where have you been? if it is not a rude question.—I have been to Coahuila, in a wild mining district, where we got letters only twice a week, and sometimes not that.—Pray, how did you spend your time in such an out-of-the-way place?—Well, I can hardly tell you: I had a great deal of business to transact, and that kept me occupied during the day; but at night, I must confess it was very *dull*. ⁽³⁾ Fortunately, I took several books with me, or I do not know what I should have done. Then, I don't know whether you are aware that I am writing a book on Mining; and I killed time in that way.—What kind of weather had you up there?—Perfectly delightful: I cannot tell you how I enjoyed sitting in my hut in the cool of the evening, just as the sun went down. The lovely breezes from the mountain seemed to give me an inspiration while I was writing. I wrote about two hundred pages

(2) Yo estaba pensando,

(3) Triste.

while I was away. The country is very rich; the mines seem inexhaustible.—When did you return?—Only last Wednesday; and since then I have had scarcely *a moment to spare*.⁽⁴⁾ I have been working hard to make up for lost time: I found a pile of letters on my office table, that nobody but myself was able to answer. There were several telegrams, too, all of much importance.—Have you *overtaken your work*?⁽⁵⁾ Yes, I finished only yesterday. How are the children?—You will be glad to hear that Arthur distinguished himself at the last examination at his school: he took the prize for Mathematics, and was far ahead of the other boys in his class.—That must be very gratifying to you.—Yes, indeed; the poor boy worked hard: in fact, I thought *his health would break down*.⁽⁶⁾ He was very sanguine, and quite made up his mind that he would come out at the top of the list. In the class there was one boy who had special advantages: he had a private tutor for six months, and made sure of the prize; but my boy *beat*.⁽⁷⁾ him by about forty marks.—Let me see; what school does Arthur attend? The Lycée Fournier, but it is a long way from here, and he gets

(4) A mi no me sobra tiempo.

(5) Se ha emparejado Vd. en su trabajo.

(6) Salud se quebrantaría,

(7) Ganar.

home very late in the evening. I wish there was a good school nearer.

Where does John go?—To an excellent private school kept by two English gentlemen; the teaching is very thorough, and all the lessons are in English; by that means he learns the language very easily; he is in an atmosphere of English all day long. It is called University School.—There seems to be a perfect mania for learning English at the present time, in this city.—Yes, you see it is almost indispensable in matters of business; we have so many transactions with our next-door neighbours the Americans, and large numbers of them are settling in our Republic, so that, in a very few years, I think English will be almost as common as Spanish.—It certainly looks like it.—Did you not say that your other son Richard went to the Normal School? Yes, that is an excellent institution under the direction of a very able gentleman; one of the most methodical men I ever knew. Everything in his office *goes on like clockwork*, and the officials under him are most attentive and obliging to all comers. I think that is a very important matter in a Public Government office. This Normal School has lately been almost rebuilt; new rooms have been added, the old ones renovated, and all conveniences supplied

(8) Todo anda como un cronómetro,

to render the establishment worthy of its name. There is a most complete set of apparatus for teaching all branches of Science. The instruments are kept in a beautiful room, one of the new ones, and are of the very best.

What do you know of the Grammar School?—It has made rapid strides lately under a very able man, who *does not leave a stone unturned*⁽⁹⁾ to increase the popularity and efficiency of his school. I hear, on good authority, that the numbers have more than doubled under his efficient management.

I think Mexico should be proud of her educational institutions; the Preparatory, the Normal and the Commercial establishments are splendid specimens. Then there is the Conservatory of Music, where instruction both in vocal and instrumental music is of the highest character. All instruments are taught, and the tuition is entirely free. And, in addition to all these, we have the School of Art: so that, *taking it altogether*,⁽¹⁰⁾ Mexico is not a whit behind other nations in these matters. Where does Edith go?—To the Mary Keener Institute.—That is a very good school, is it not?—Yes, they have a Kinder Garten, as well a High School Department, and the advanced pupils do very

(9) No deja titere con cabeza.

[10] En todo.

good work, work that would be a credit to any American school. Most of the teachers, I believe, are from the States and the establishment is under the auspices of an American Society.—Our conversation has developed into a discussion on schools; I hope it is not tiresome to you.—On the contrary, nothing could be more interesting.—How is your husband?—Very well, thank you; he is busy just at present with the half-yearly balance. The bank has had a most prosperous half-year, and is in a very flourishing condition: I think they intend enlarging the premises.—I am afraid I am tiring you.—Pray, don't mention it: it is so long since we saw you, that it is a pleasure to have such an interesting chat with you. Will you come and dine with us to-morrow evening at seven?—Thank you very much; I shall be delighted to do so. Good day.—Good bye, Mr. Taylor.

A Mexican Fiesta.

Mr. Miller meets his friend Mr. Taylor at the Railway Station. How do you do? How late the train is! I have been here for the last hour, anxiously expecting you.—Yes, we had a long wait at Tula. There was a large quantity of luggage to be