

taken into the train, and a great deal to be taken out. I thought we should never get away. There was also something wrong with a freight train; and that caused some delay.—Well, here you are; and I can't tell you how glad I am to see you. This is your first visit to our city, I believe. I have a great deal to show you; so let us *make the most of*^[1] the time. We will take a coach to my house.—What is that statue?—That is Columbus.—It is a very appropriate object of attraction to a new arrival.—We have another Statue of him in the Reforma; a finer one than this, you will say. But here we are at my house. Come upstairs.—(Mr. M. to his wife) My dear, this is my friend, Mr. Taylor.—Mrs. M. I am glad to see you, sir; My husband has so often spoken of you, that I have been very anxious for a long time to make your acquaintance.—Mr. T. Thank you, Madam; I can assure you the pleasure is mutual. Your charming home is a sufficient evidence of your excellent domestic qualities.—Mrs. M. I hope you will not be in a hurry to leave us.—I am sure you are very good, and, much as I appreciate your kindness, I regret to say, that important business calls me back to Chihuahua at the end of the week.—Mrs. M. Then we shall have the pleasure of

[1] Aprovechar el tiempo.

your company for five days at least.—Thank you very much.—My dear, will you go with Mr. T. to his room; I think you will find everything ready.—Come this way, my friend. I hope you will like this room.—Certainly, why not?—I will leave you; you know your way down.—Yes.—Mr. T. Well now, for the fiesta, and its belongings. It is the Todos Santos, I think you said.—Yes, let us go to the Alameda and see the fun.—But, surely there is no FUN connected with it. I have never seen anything of the kind; you know I have been in Chihuahua only six months.—Well, you shall see, and judge for yourself. Here we are in the midst of it.—What a sight, to be sure!—Yes, I want you to notice the grotesque emblems of death and all its surroundings. Look there at that funeral procession in the form of a child's toy; then again at the skeletons dancing, grinning, playing fiddles, eating, drinking—in fact, doing everything that is ridiculous. You can buy a breast-pin with a Death's head and cross bones for a cent. Do you see these dead bodies in shrouds in the miniature coffins, and how they are made to jump up as if coming to life again, by the pulling of a string? Look at the death's heads, and the gaping jaws.—Well, this is a sight never to be forgotten. No words can describe it. It must be seen to be believed.—We will walk slowly along, and you will see

the countless forms in which death is represented. Here we are at the end of the line. Let us walk back again.—I must make a collection of these oddities for my wife. I wish I could have brought her. But she is too ill to travel at present. A complete collection of these curiosities would fill a good-sized cabinet.—Yes, indeed.—I think I have all I want in this *line*.^[2]—Tomorrow you had better come and buy some pottery.—Yes, I had made up my mind to do that. They say there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous; certainly some of that pottery is sublime, if I may use the term; is it not highly artistic?—Yes, indeed, I don't think you will find its equal in the world. It is made mostly at Guadalajara; I have seen the workmen there at some of the factories.

It is really wonderful to see poor unsophisticated fellows take a piece of clay, and, in a few minutes *turn out*^[3] a faithful representation of Juarez, Hidalgo, or of any noted man in the history of the country.

In a suburb of Guadalajara lives the interesting Indian Sculptor, Panduro, who, at a single sitting, models remarkably good likenesses in clay. He has had many tempting offers to go to Mexico and to New York, but he refuses

(2) Ramo
(3) Hacer.

them all. He has his little house and garden in the beautiful climate of Jalisco and easily makes a comfortable living, and he cannot be induced to leave his home by any offers of wealth.

Look at the children going home, laden with the emblems of Death; as much as they can carry. But there is another side to the picture; the sad one. Jump into that car; it is going to the Mexican Cemetery at Dolores.—What a crowd! Here we are at the gates. There is a funeral, but we will not stop. Let us see what is going on in the cemetery. Look at the people all decorating the graves. How pretty some of them are! This is the legitimate way of observing the day, and contrasts very remarkably with what we saw at the Alameda.—Again, one step from the sublime to the ridiculous.—This cemetery is not the prettiest in the city. We will now go to the French one, and you will see a remarkable difference.—How unlike the last!—Notice the artistic way they arrange the flowers on the graves. The ground, too, is beautifully kept; the flower beds are a picture.—Let us go home; it is getting dark.—I can say with truth, I have seen strange things to day.

At the Furniture Dealer's

Mr. Cadena, I *presume*.⁽¹⁾

No, sir, Mr. C, is not in at present, but he will *not belong*,⁽²⁾ can I do anything for you?—May I ask whether you are his manager?—Yes, sir, I always attend to the business when he is away. I have been with him now, over six years.—Thank you. I am a friend of a great friend of his, Mr. Villarreal, I suppose you know him;—Yes, sir, very well.—I am about to furnish a house, and our mutual friend advised me to select my furniture here: he told me that you keep everything that is necessary.—Yes, sir, we have everything you can mention in the *furniture line*.⁽³⁾ You have come at a fortunate time; *as it happens*,⁽⁴⁾ we had a consignment from the States only two days ago, everything of the newest and best; will you walk this way, sir; Ah, here is Mr. C. I knew he would not be long. This is,—let me see, I have not the pleasure of knowing your name, sir—a friend of M. Villarreal—he has come to look at some furniture.—My name is Harper: I have lately arrived in Mexico, and am furnish-

(1) Yo creo.

(2) No tardará 'mucho.

(3) Ramo.

[4] Por casualidad.

ing a house in Independencia. First of all I should like to look at a drawing-room suite—have you any in maple?—Yes, sir, how do you like this?—Have you anything of a little better quality?—Yes, sir, *do you mind stepping upstairs*⁽⁵⁾ Here is one we had in the day before yesterday: it is quite a new design; I do not think there is anything like it in Mexico; I got it from a special catalogue.—It is indeed very pretty; what is the price of it? \$150 for eight pieces.—That is remarkably cheap; I will take it. Now please let me see a bed-room set, a double wash-stand, wardrobe &c. I like something white for a bed-room; it gives a cheerful appearance to things, don't you think so, Mr. C.—Yes, sir, I am of your opinion; here is something I think you will like; it has been much admired by all who have seen it: in fact, a gentleman was on the point of buying it only yesterday;—Yes, it is very nice; what do you ask for it?—\$100.00 sir.—I think that rather dear.—I confess it does appear so; but when you come to examine the workmanship closely, I am sure you will be of a different opinion,—Yes, I realise what you say; it is certainly well made, but I think I will leave that to my wife to decide; we shall be in again to-morrow.—Now I want some chairs for the hall,

(5) Quiere Vd. molestarse en subir.

and a hat stand &c, something dark.—Yes, sir. How will these suit you?—Very well, if the price is not too high.—Two hall chairs, a hat stand and umbrella stand, all for \$30.—*That will do.* ⁽⁶⁾ Have you you any cheap cane-bot-tomed chairs?—Yes, sir, here are just what you want, they cost a dollar each.—You, may send me six.—Can I show you some carpets, sir? No thank you, I detest them. They harbor dust and vermin; I have nothing but rugs, that can easily be taken up and shaken as often as you please.—I think I can supply you with what you want in that line, sir; here are some very pretty Turkish, ones; I will not guarantee that they were actually made in Turkey; but they are a very fine imitation, and are a good article for the money; they cost \$20 each, and are of various patterns as you see.—Well, when my wife comes to-morrow I will let her decide on that matter. Now, let me see what else do I want? Oh, there is the servant's room; a bed, toilet set, three chairs, a piece of carpet and a chest of drawers, small size; what will the whole cost? *One minute, sir,* ⁽⁷⁾ \$50. Very well; Do you keep bedding?—Yes, sir, a large stock; please step into the next department:—I will take this mattress, these two pillows and

[6] Eso bastará.

[7] Un momento!

this bolster; what will they cost?—\$50—Let me see some blinds for the windows; I have the size here; what colours have you?—I have yellow, blue and green.—I think a buff colour will be the best for the eyes; don't you think so Mr. C?—Yes.—Cut me off twelve metros of this.—This piece measures just twelve metros so it does not require cutting; I will send it as it is.—Now as to kitchen utensils and other small things; Have you anything of that nature?—Yes, sir, everything you can mention.—Very well; I will leave that matter entirely to my wife.

With reference to payment; what are your terms?—Well, sir, as you are a friend of Mr. Villarreal, I will ask you to settle as it may be convenient.—You are very obliging certainly; and *you shall not lose any thing by it* ⁽⁸⁾ I assure you. I can pay you the greater part on delivery of the goods, and the rest by monthly instalments. I am sure I can *clear it all off* ⁽⁹⁾ in about three months; will that suit you?—Very well, sir.—How do you propose sending the goods?—As you live so near, I will send them by cargadors; that is most convenient.—Of course you will not do anything till we finally settle to-morrow, after my wife has been.—Certainly not, sir.—We shall want several more little things that I have

(8) No perderá vd. nada con esto.

(9) Liquide mis cuentas.

not mentioned: there are lamps, crockery ware, brackets, what-nots, and a *host of other things* ⁽¹⁰⁾ so essential in a house and known only to a lady; but I thought I would *come round* ⁽¹¹⁾ and buy the larger articles, and make your acquaintance, at the suggestion of Mr. Villarreal.—Thank you very much, sir, I am very glad to know you; till to-morrow, Good day.—Good day. Sir.

Hiring Apartments

— —

Good morning, my dear, is your mother at home? Yes, Sir—Can I see her please? Yes, Sir.—Good morning, ma'am I see by an advertisement in this morning's paper that you have a vivienda to let.—Yes, sir; is it for yourself?—Yes, for myself and wife and two children, a boy of five and a girl of 13.—Will you please step upstairs, sir. These are the rooms, a suite of six.—This, I suppose is the sitting room? Yes, sir.—It is rather dark; don't you think so?—Well, sir, it is a dull day, and the sun is at the other side of the house at this hour.—Certainly, that may account for it to some extent. Which room is next?—The dining room, sir; this is it.—Ah, that is better; I

(10) Muchas cosas.

(11) Llamar.

like this room. Where is the kitchen?—Here, sir, near the dining room.—That is convenient. That makes three rooms that I have seen; where are the others, the bed rooms?—On this side of the vivienda sir, away from the kitchen and the smell of the cooking.—That is a *capital* ⁽¹⁾ arrangement. I detest the smell of cooking; and in many houses kitchen and bed-room are painfully close together. Now, there is one important room that I have not seen; I mean the bath-room.—Here it is, far removed from the other rooms.—That is very desirable. I am very pleased with the whole arrangement; what is the rent of the suite? Sixty dollars a month, sir, payable in advance, of course.—There are one or two questions I should like to ask you before I decide; that is, if my wife likes the rooms,—I must bring her to see them: ladies know so much more about these domestic matters than we men do.—Precisely so, sir.—Well, in the first place, Is there a good supply of good water?—I have lived here five years, and can speak very positively on that point. I have never known the water to fail for one day during the whole time, except, of course, in case of repairs: and as to its quality, you would think it had been filtered. Just to convince you, sir, I will bring you a glass of it

(1) Bueno.

direct from the pump.—Well, that is delicious, certainly; and you say it is always the same?—It never varies from day to day.—Now, another matter, Is there always a sufficient flow of water in the bath-room for me to have a cold bath every morning? My morning bath is a part of my existence.—You will excuse me, sir; but I *presume* ⁽²⁾ you are an Englishman, by that last remark of yours.—Yes, I am proud to say I am.—Well, sir, set your mind at rest on that matter. There is no stint whatever; the water is always there; and whenever you want warm water for the children, just let me know a few minutes beforehand, and you shall have it.—Thank you very much. Yes, an Englishman is fond of the water: I attribute my excellent health, *in a great measure* ⁽³⁾ to my morning bath. I hope you will not think me troublesome, but you know, it is just as well to have an understanding on all matters, at the outset; it often saves a great deal of unpleasantness afterwards. I should like to know whether there would be any objection to my practising the violin, say, for an hour a day; there is no invalid in the house, I hope, to whom I might be a nuisance.—No, sir, on the contrary, it would give me and my son a great deal of pleasure to hear a little music occasionally. The house is

(2) Yo creo.

(3) En grande parte.

very dull *at the best of times* ⁽⁴⁾. There is only one person in the place besides myself and my son; and he is out till late at night; in fact, I seldom see him; and my boy is often away too: so that I should be delighted to hear you play—But, I am only an amateur; you must not expect much. I did not notice whether you had the electric light in all the rooms: I saw it the dining room.—Yes, sir, it is all over the house; in the bath-room too—Very well.—When do you wish to come in, provided your wife likes the place?—Next week, say Wednesday, will that suit you?—Certainly, sir, any time you wish. My reason for asking is that I want to have the rooms thoroughly cleaned and the walls swept down; and there are one or two little repairs to be done.—There is another question I want to ask; what time does the front door close at night?—That does not affect you at all, sir; I will give you a key; so that you may come in at any hour you please.—Good.—May I ask sir, whether you keep a servant?—No, my wife does all that we require, which is very little; we have a woman in occasionally to do the rough work; but Mrs. Taylor is an excellent cook, and prefers to manage the food herself; servants are very wasteful in the kitchen, you know; we had a gen-

(4) A lo mejor.

eral servant, till about eight months ago: but my wife prefers to be without one; our girl helps her a little, and we *get along* ⁽⁵⁾ very well.—When shall I see you again sir?—I will bring Mrs. Taylor along to-morrow about this time, and if everything is satisfactory we will take the rooms. I must thank you for the courtesy you have shown me in this matter, and wish you a very good day.—Well, sir, I find that politeness to my lodgers *goes a long way*, ⁽⁶⁾ and it costs nothing.—That is true; but some landladies are dreadfully disagreeable.

A Ride to Tlalpam.

How is the weather? It is very bad. What a pity! we shall have to stay indoors.—Never mind the rain; let us put on our waterproofs and go out. Very well, I will risk it.—Look, it has stopped raining, and the sky is quite blue again.—So it is: the streets will soon dry.—Where shall we go?—I don't care *so long* ⁽⁷⁾ as we get away from the city and its noise. Let us go to Tlalpam, what do you say? I am agreeable, suppose we

(5) Nos avenimos muy bien.

(6) Se alcanza mucho.

(7) Mientras que

walk to the Zócalo and take a train from there; I think they run every hour: it is now twenty minutes to one, so we shall *just catch* ⁽²⁾ the one o'clock train.—Yes, that is a good idea.—Ah! here comes my friend Mr. Dover. Good morning, Mr. Dover, how are you? let me introduce you to my friend Mr. Miller.—I am glad to make your acquaintance, sir.—It is a long time since I saw you, Mr. Dover: I have called at your house several times, but you were always out.—Yes, I regret very much that I was not at home to receive you.—How is your father?—He has been unwell since last Sunday, and has been obliged to stay in his room.—I hope it is nothing serious.—No, only a cold that he caught the other night, coming out of the theatre.—Yes, but a cold is no trifling thing in this country, I assure you, and is a matter not to be neglected; the changes in temperature are very trying to people in delicate health: so, take care of your father, and do not let him *run any risks*. ⁽³⁾—I'll take your advice: but, my dear old father has an *iron constitution* ⁽⁴⁾ and *it takes a great deal to upset him*. ⁽⁵⁾—For that reason you should be all the more careful: one is apt to presume too much

(2) Justamente para alcanzar el tren.

(3) Correr algún peligro.

[4] Constitución de fierro ó herculana.

(5) Se necesita bastante descomponer su salud.

upon that kind of thing.—But, here comes the train; will you jump in and go with us? We are just *off for a run* ⁽⁶⁾ to Tlalpam.—I would, with pleasure, my dear fellow, if I could: but, I have an appointment at half-past one, and I cannot possibly put it off. The gentleman I am to meet goes away by the six o'clock train, and will not be in Mexico again for a month.—Under those circumstances, of course you cannot go with us: I am very sorry: I am sure both my friend and I would have enjoyed your company immensely: but *it can't be helped*: ⁽⁷⁾ when shall I see you again? Can you *look me up* ⁽⁸⁾ on Tuesday at eight?—Yes.—Well, good-bye: kind regards to the old gentleman. — Here's the train: get in. Now, we are off. That's a very *nice fellow*: ⁽⁹⁾ I have known him for years. His father is manager of a wholesale house in Calle Don Juan Manuel: he has held the position as long as I can remember; but he is *getting on in years* ⁽¹⁰⁾ now; and although you heard the son remark that his father has an iron constitution, the old gentleman has had a few *nasty at-*

(6) Yendo á dar una vuelta.

(7) No se puede evitarse.

(8) Llama á me.

(9) Buen sujeto.

(10) Envejeciendo.

tacks ⁽¹¹⁾ lately: but he always "*pulls through*" ⁽¹²⁾ as they say: but I don't like this cold that he caught at the theatre; it has brought on a bad cough: yet, with his fine constitution. I think he may *be about again* ⁽¹³⁾ in a week or so.—What is the son?—He is in the same house with the father: they are inseparable: they live next door to each other at Tacuba, and they go home together by the same car every evening at six. The son is married and the old gentleman spends an occasional evening with his boy. There is a grandchild; and it would do you good to see the affection between the little fellow and his grandfather. He is a most engaging boy, and asks his mother and father all kinds of sensible questions. He is just nine years old.—Boys are charming at that age, I think: they are so innocent.—This little fellow is clever too, naturally so: he is passionately fond of music and has just commenced learning the violin: it is wonderful to see what progress he has made in two months: he loves the instrument, and practises without any "*driving*" ⁽¹⁴⁾—Then he will make a good player.—To go back to the grandfather: he has a very valuable library, and is a great reader: he

[11] Severos ataques.

[12] Se re-establece.

(13) Esta otra vez, bien siempre.

(14) Practicar sin ser forzado

has books on all subjects; poetry, science, biography, books of travel; in fact, everything you can mention: so that although he lives alone, he is "never so little alone as when alone;" as was said of some great man. Do you remember who it was?—No, I don't for the moment; but I think it was a great Roman: however, I will look it up.—But, where are we all this time?—We are getting near Tlalpam. May I offer you a cigar?—No, thank you, I have given up smoking, because I found it did not agree with my health.—Here we are at our destination; how do you like this pretty little place?—It is pretty, indeed, but I should not care to live here; I should think it would be very *dull*:^[15] Is that the church? Let us go in; I like to see old churches: this is quaint, isn't it?—Yes, indeed.—If these walls could speak, they could tell us something interesting, no doubt: Let us go out into the square and take a walk round it; it is rather pretty. But, look at the sky: I believe we are going to have a thunderstorm: don't you think we had better make our way to the train? By the way, did I tell you I was going to the States?—No, when do you *start*?^[16]—In about a fortnight.—Which route do you take?—I intend going by the Eagle Pass line.—Why?—Well, I have always gone by

(15) Triste.

(16) Salir.

the Mexican Central before; but it is dreadfully monotonous to travel by the same line every journey; and you know this will be the fourth time I have been this year.—How long shall you be away?—About three weeks, if I can *get through my business*^[17] by that time.—Do you go alone? No, my cousin is going with me.—I suppose I shall see you again before you start.—O yes, often.—How do you like this ride to Tlalpam?—Very much. Is that the Coyoacan line?—Yes, have you ever been there?—No.—It is a very interesting place: you know it is full of the history of that villain Cortés.—You may well call him a villain. When I see the picture of his torture of poor Cuauhtemoc, *my blood boils*^[18] with rage.—You must certainly go to Coyoacan at the earliest opportunity.—Yes, I will.—We are getting near Mexico: the rain has *held off*^[19] after all.—What is that large building on the right?—It is what is called a *fabrica de hilados*, or cotton factory; they employ about five hundred hands there. Well, here we are at the Zócalo: I am glad we went to Tlalpam; we have quite escaped the rain: they seem to have had a great deal of it in the city. Good bye

(17) Arreglar el negocio.

(18) Mi sangre hierve.

(19) Se escaseó la lluvia.

At the Tailor's

Good morning Mr. Turner; I want you to measure me for a suit of clothes; in fact, I want three suits, one for the office, one for home wear, and an evening dress suit.—Yes, sir, step this way please. I will first measure you for the office suit. What kind of coat should you like?—Well, I think an ordinary sack coat, not too long.—About this length, sir?—Let me see in the glass. Yes, that I think will be *about the thing*.⁽¹⁾—And the vest, sir?—Well, just about the same.—Should you like it double-breasted? They are very much worn now. Yes. I know they are, but I do not like them; make it a single breast, and be sure you give me plenty of room to breathe: I cannot endure tight things: I am rather inclined to be stout, and sometimes have a little difficulty in breathing, when I walk fast: so, anything tight about the breast or stomach is very disagreeable to me.—How do you like the trousers?—Well, pretty loose, especially round the waist: pray, give me room there.—Shall I make them loose in the legs?—Yes, as loose as you please, without looking ridiculous. There is an old saying "Ease before Elegance"; and I certainly like to feel easy in my

(1) Eso será más ó menos la cosa.

clothes.—I will bear that in mind, sir. Which do you prefer, side pockets or cross ones?—Cross ones, decidedly.—Side pockets are more fashionable you know.—Yes, I am aware of that, but they are dangerous: one is apt to lose money out of them while one is lying down. Then, too, they rather encourage the putting one's hands into one's pockets, which is a lazy habit.—Shall I make you any pockets at the back of the trousers?—Yes, they are very handy. I suppose you do not remember the old fobs that our forefathers had for their watches?—No, sir, that was before my time.—Yes, it was forty years ago; I remember them well, and the chains and the seals men used to carry. How are trousers worn now, rather loose, are they not?—Yes, sir. Now I will take your measure for the other suit; I suppose you want something different from the office suit.—Yes, a little more stylish.—I think a coat like this in the picture would suit you admirably. How do you like that style?—Very well.—Then I will measure you for it.—You may make the vest a little different from the other, a little more open down the front.—Yes, sir,—That will look better with the style of coat I want.—The trousers will be about the same.—Yes.—Now for the dress suit. There are two or three different styles worn now; which do you prefer?—Well, I think I like the old-fashion style, the swallow-tail coat, after