

SCHWATKA IN MEXICO.

AN ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPLORATIONS IN CHIHUAHUA.

Beautiful Scenery and Old Ruins—The Mormon Colony of Diaz—Considerable Influx of American Capital into Northern Mexico.

THE Casas Grandes (the Big Houses) Valley and River, through and along which we have been traveling for some time, is formed by the junction of two rivers, the San Miguel and Piedras Verdes, writes Lieutenant Schwatka, in the Chicago *Inter Ocean*. The former, the San Miguel, is the straight-line prolongation of the Casas Grandes, and seemingly the true stream, but the Piedras Verdes is the more important, as its waters are perennially replenished with branches, which head in the never-failing springs of the Sierras to the west. On its picturesque bank we now find ourselves.

Just before reaching La Ascension we came to the Mormon colony of Diaz (named by them in honor of the present President of the Mexican Republic) numbering about thirty families. A discussion of their religious tenets is clearly and fortunately—out of my province, not only from the heavy, dreary character of it, but for the reason that everything, wise and otherwise, about Mormonism has already been put before those who cared to read it. But entirely outside of the subject of polygamy, which has so completely obscured every other point about these people, they have one characteristic which is seldom heard of in connection with them and their wander-

will predominate in Northwestern Chihuahua in a few years. The Mexican Government encourages the element, for there is now no fear of a second Texas movement, the Americans who are here, and presumably those who will come, preferring the Mexican Government to that of the United States over them in the peculiar interests which naturally arise here, such as great grazing interests, the colonization of large tracts, railways, etc., our land laws forcing people into minute matters that do not exist here.

Twenty-five or thirty miles south of Corralitos we came to Casas Grandes, said to be a town of 3,000 people. We saw about ten people as we drove through the seemingly deserted streets. It is the most important town in the valley, both historically and in numbers. It takes its name, meaning "Big Houses," from the ancient ruins just in the suburbs of the present place, which contained the largest houses of any found in this part of Mexico when it was first visited by Europeans many centuries ago.

Here we left the river and struck out inland to the southwest to the Mormon colony of Juarez.

Like all distances in this part of Mexico, there is not a sign of civilization between, not even a camping-place, although the country traversed is a fine one for grazing cattle, with numerous valleys where farms could be made remunerative, and where three or four dozen houses ought to be seen if a tenth of the country's resources were developed.

The scene from the top of the ridge between the two rivers was an especially beautiful one, seldom surpassed in the most picturesque part of the United States. Far to the west were the grand Sierra Madres, crested with snow, while nearer were great shaggy hills covered with timber, a most delightful sight to eyes deprived so long of it in such masses; and yet still nearer were rolling lands covered with yellow grasses and traversed by little streams, where it seems a hundred houses ought to be nesting with thousands of cattle on the grassy hills. Above

places apparently where they must have been in times of danger from other tribes. They were a wonderful and interesting people.

The third sketch is on the Tapasita near the principal ruins, which must have been a city of these people. The only life we saw here was a mountain lion, or panther, that came trotting along the valley until it saw us and turned back to the mountains. FREDERICK SCHWATKA.

LETTERS FROM THE CORNERS.

Hester Ann Recites More of Her Troubles
NECK OR NOTHIN HALL, KILKENNY CORNERS.

MR. EDITUR: I'd a finished a tellin you about William Henery an the lode has time of that pesky ole bob-tale rooster an his gang of hens hedn't a got in to my inyuns an scratched like all sin. It took me a plumly tour to set them inyuns back into the bed.

But I was a goin to tell you how William Henery cum home frum lode, want I? Well about two o'clock in the mornin I heard sum one make a awful timid nock onto the dore.

"Whose there?" ses I.

"It's me—what's lef o me," sed a voice. An I want quite sure whuther it wus William Henery or not, and so I ses:

"Who is me?"
"Ole womin, you no well enuf who it is; let me in, I'm a'most crippled."

I node who it wera then, fur William Henery he never speeks so only jes when he air very much excited.

"I tol you so," ses I, an then gashed out: "Laws, man! what on airth is the matter? Air you drunk?"

An, Mr. Editur, he wur about the wust lookin objec I ever did see. He didn't answer my questions, but went to lookin at his close.

"Look at that hat," ses he. "It's smashed flatter'n a pancake. It's totally ruined, Hester Ann, an the cote split up the back an one tale gone. He dun it when he throwed me over his head."

"An look at them pantaloons," ses I; "they air clean gone up."

"Yes," ses he, "and I went up in em, Hester Ann."

"Well, ef you did go up in em, you cum purty nigh a cumin down out of em," ses I, purty short like.

"That's so," Hester Ann, but every bone in my buddy akes; I tell you, I've had a tuf time to-night," ses he, profetically.

"That's what cumms of ole men a cuperin aroun on to old gotes an greeey poles. I knowed it wud be so," ses I, sturnly.

"But, ole womin, it wan't the gote, it wus the—"

But I bruk rite in an ses, "Don't make it enny worse by fibbin, William Henery, but cum along an let me put on the vinegar poltis, it's good and hot."

"But, ole woman, thay wus no gote; that's jis a sayin. It wus the—"

"Don't deny it, William Henery, your addition speaks fur its self," ses I, calmly.

"But, Hester Ann, masonry didn't hev nothing to do with my addition. It wus Square Ropersole—"

"William Henery," ses I, "its bin my experience that the masonry may be a fine thing it don't agree with ole men like you. Here's another vinegar poltis, so you jes lay still an go to sleep."

"An that has been the las of William Henery wanting to go to the lode.

He is tolable well now, but his back wus awful fur a few days.

He got well in time to go to Georges an Smanthy's weddin, but he hed to git him a brand-knew suit of close tho, fur thay wus hardly enuf of them in that he wore thet nite to make carpet rags out of.

An then to think of him a tryin to lay it on to Squire Roper's old Samson, when I knowed how it wud be when he wint, and I warrantied him, but he wud go, an so he hed to suffer.

HESTER ANN SCOPER.

The Imitative Chinaman.

Senator Stewart, of Nevada, does not believe in the theory that a Chinaman can progress, although he may be Americanized in most particulars. The other day he was telling about some of his strange experiences with the sons of the Celestial empire, when he said: "When we got our first Chinaman to cook, he didn't know a blessed thing about the kitchen, and it became necessary for Mrs. Stewart to go down and show him how to do everything. When you demonstrate in an ocaral way how things should be done, John never forgets. He is very impressionable. Mrs. Stewart showed him how to make biscuits. After she rolled the dough, she took a cutter and began to cut the biscuits. When the whole roll was done there was a little triangular piece left, and of this she made a half moon, which is customary. I didn't know anything about it at the time, but at the end of three or four months I discovered that every day when our biscuits were served here was a half moon among the lot. At the end of a year I made inquiry about the matter of Mrs. Stewart, and she went into the kitchen and watched the Chinaman each time he cut his biscuits, and she discovered that he always made a half moon, and would spoil four or five biscuits to do so. He thought it was as necessary as the salt or the shortening."—Washington Cor. Indianapolis Journal.

Their ancient ditches could be made out along the hillside, which showed that they had once cultivated the rich soil of these valleys. They well understood the value of water, too, for around the bases of the small streamless valleys coming into the watered ones were dam-like terraces, evidently to catch and retain the water after showers until it was probably needed in the irrigating ditches. On the top of high hills adjacent were fortifications.

"It takes three generations to make a gentleman," and a bottle of whisky will unmake him.

SOME LARGE FAMILIES.

TWINS, TRIPLETS, QUADRUPLETS AND SEXTUPLETS.

Iowa's Champion Leads with Twenty-eight Children, and Another Hawkeye Claims Two Dozen—Michigan's Great Record—Wisconsin to the Front.

[From the Chicago Herald.]

DUBUQUE, Iowa, May, 1889.

Some interesting developments in connection with large families have been made in this vicinity. Melchor Mueller, who resides near Bellevue, in the neighboring county of Jackson, bears the distinction of being the father of one of the largest families on record. Twenty-eight children have been born to him, eighteen of whom are dead and ten living. In this number there were three pairs of twins. Mueller was born at Traunheim, Germany, in December, 1834, and is a robust, healthy man. He has been twice married. His first wife was Agatha Doser, a native of Germany, who bore him six children, three of whom are living. His second wife was Kunigunde Hummel, also a native of Germany, who is now living, aged 46. She has borne twenty-two children, seven of whom are living. Mueller is a poor but industrious man, deeply attached to his family, thoroughly domestic in his tastes, and, if his life is spared, thinks he will yet see several other flowered, rosy-cheeked children bear his name. The neighborhood in which Mueller resides is largely populated by Luxemburghers, and among them are many large families. The average family is twelve. Indeed, a family of less than this number is considered small in that neighborhood. A family of twenty-five children live in Spruce Creek Township, Jackson County, near Mueller's home.

In the city of Dubuque there are many large families. John Benkson, a painter, heads the list. He has been married but once, and is the father of eighteen children. His wife is a native of Iowa, 59 years of age. Their residence is 1090 White street. John Jennie, a laborer, comes next with a family of sixteen children. His wife is 49 years of age, and the couple declare they would not willingly part with one of their offspring. John Krayer, a well-to-do grocer in this city, has fifteen children by his present wife, who is now 43 years of age and a woman of robust health. George Neumiller has a family of fourteen, and Jake Dodze, a peddler, one of the same number. Joseph Goode is thoroughly happy surrounded by the same number of children. Those having thirteen children are: Leo McDaniel, Benedict Bossler, P. Vogel, Frank Maier, Fritz Reibitsch, P. McCullough and J. C. Curtis. Those having twelve children are: J. M. Lenehan, E. E. Jones, John Parker, Robert Miller, Adam Doerr, A. J. Patch, H. A. Mayer, M. Gantenbein, Joseph Bower, G. Riedermeyer, Thomas Kenneally, Anton Baumhauer, Henry Dippey, E. L. Curtis and Max Mutsch. It would occupy a column of space to publish the names of the men in this city who are the fathers of eleven children each. With a great many that number seems to be high-water mark. It is related here that in 1872 a woman named Schmidt, living at Rockdale, in this county, gave birth to six children, all within an hour. A year or two ago a woman named Murphy, residing in this city, gave birth to four children, all of whom were healthy and strong.

Has Twenty-three, Still Living.

BELLEVUE, Iowa.

About three miles north of the neighboring township of Dows, this State, on the Bow road, there lives in a one-story house one of the most remarkable families on record. It consists of a father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. William Marks, with twenty-two girls and one boy. The oldest child is only 24 years of age; the youngest is an infant child of eight months. There are even two dozen children in the Marks family until November last, when the diphtheria visited them and carried off one. The husband and father of this immense family is a laboring man, possessed of no means of maintenance, except his simple earnings, with which he supports his flock, and wud never have left their door. He is 43 years of age; his wife the perfect picture of health and comeliness—is one year his junior. They have been married twenty-five years this month.

Twenty-one Young Fredericks.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick are the proud parents of twenty-one children, two of whom have died; nearly all of the nineteen are grown and some are married. It used to be a standing joke in the neighborhood that Frederick bought hats and caps and boots and shoes by the case, and that when he traveled with his family he procured carload rates of the railroads.

Atlantic's Showring.

ATLANTIC, Iowa.

L. A. Lorenzen and wife, of this place, have had seventeen children. A majority of them are not living. W. Smith and wife had two pairs of twins, and have had triplets once. All the children are living, and some of them are grown up and married.

MICHIGAN'S GREAT RECORD.

Statistics from the State Census Show Many Prolific Women.

LANSING, Mich.

George Batchelor was married and resided in Bunker Hill Township, in this county, shortly after the close of the war. During the first eleven years of his marriage the eleven children were added to his household. All the children are yet alive, but Mr. Batchelor is now dead. A. B. Angell, who, when twenty-eight years of age, married a sister of Mrs. Batchelor, referred to above, became the father of eight children in the first seven years of married life. This family was once blessed with triplets. The last State census of Michigan shows that there were 701 mothers who had given birth to their tenth child, 405 to eleven children, 251 to twelve children, 120 to thirteen children, sixty-three to fourteen children, twenty-seven to fifteen children, ten to sixteen children, eight to seventeen children, four to eighteen children, one to twenty children, and one to twenty-five children. There were 696 pairs of twins reported during the census year, and four sets of triplets.

Come in Bunches at Grand Rapids.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

The wife of Professor La Pierre was one of a family of twenty-three children, and she is herself the mother of eleven, six of whom are still living. John Van der Houten is the father of twenty-two children by two marriages, and nineteen of them were alive at one time and all living under the same roof. Seven of the children have died at various ages. There were only two sets of twins. The late Leonard D'Voge was the father of fifteen children, five of whom are now living, one of the five being Professor D'Voge, of the State University faculty. John Shekhee is the father of thirteen children, only four of whom are girls. John W. Phillips has the credit of being the father of thirteen boys, all grown to manhood and themselves parents of large families. John Poisson is the father of an even dozen children, none of them twins, and the majority of the feminine persuasion. Michael Farrell, of Ada Township, has nine girls and two boys. Mrs. May, a widow, has ten children, the eldest fourteen years, six of them boys. Aaron B. Turner, editor of the *Eagle*, has two boys and six daughters living, and one boy laid away to rest. John Montague,

of Georgetown, has thirteen children living and two dead, and all but three came either as twins or triplets. Seven of them are girls, and the eldest is eighteen years of age. A Polish family at Dow had one set of triplets, two pairs of twins, two solitaires, and last fall the mother gave birth to four babies at one time. All but the quadruplets are living. Julia A. Moore, of Edgerton, known as "the Sweet Singer of Michigan," had ten children. J. Lososkey has his modest home adorned with fourteen olive branches. Ten of them are girls, with four pairs of twins and one set of triplets in the family, the eldest of the lot being twelve years.

Battle Creek Has Twins and Triplets.

BATTLE CREEK, Mich.

There are many families in this city and vicinity with seven, eight or nine children. The largest family yet discovered is that of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sparrow, who are the parents of seventeen children, nine of whom are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Joe N. Sanford have twelve children. James Mulvaney has a family of eleven children. The youngest one is about eleven years of age and weighs 213 pounds. Another good-sized family is that of Isaac N. Johnson, which consists of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morse are the parents of eleven children, all but one of whom are living. In the last school census Jeremiah Conway is credited with ten children of school age, Hugh Gibson with nine, Christian Sneadton, and W. S. Nelson nine. Twins are quite numerous. Mrs. Michael Marion recently gave birth to triplets. The most remarkable case of that sort here was that of Mrs. Alonzo Gray, who first gave birth to one child, then to twins, and finally to triplets, all boys. The triplets were named "Tom, Dick and Harry." The latter lived for several months, but all three are now dead. Mrs. Alonzo G. Payne, living a few miles east, gave birth to male twins very recently.

Nothing Remarkable About Benton Harbor

BENTON HARBOR, Mich.

Mrs. George Herman, of St. Joseph, has borne fifteen children, twelve of them girls and three boys. Mrs. Henry Butzbach is the mother of twelve children. Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Morrison filled their cradle full of twins on Feb. 10 last.

WISCONSIN TO THE FRONT.

Four Children at One Birth Near Eau Claire—Some Big Babies.

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.

About two years ago Mrs. Grindale, of Chetek, a small town north of this city, gave birth to four boys at once, two of them weighing six pounds each and two of them four pounds each. The pair had been married about two years, and had previously been blessed with no children, nor have they had any since. The boys were all perfectly formed and lively, bright babies, but two of them died within a week, the other two living respectively six and five months. Had not the family been in destitute circumstances at the time, and had not the infants thereby suffered from the lack of immediate attention and of subsequent care, they would doubtless have lived. The parents had just arrived in this country, and had settled in a remote spot, where aid did not reach them at once.

Mrs. John Neher, of this city, who is enjoying excellent health at the good age of eighty-four, has had sixteen children—nine boys and seven girls—all of whom are living and are well-to-do residents of various Northwestern States. The youngest of the family, a boy, was born when Mrs. Neher was fifty-one years of age. The young man, who is a substantial citizen of Eau Claire, rejoices in being uncle to sixty-nine children and the father of six. Mr. Neher, the father of this remarkable family of sixteen, is dead. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ihle have four boys and eight girls, the oldest twenty-six, and Mrs. Ihle is but forty-three years of age. Mrs. Louis Engward, aged forty, recently gave birth to triplets and has had seven children in all. Mrs. William Bell has presented her husband with eleven children, who range in age from one to nine years, four being girls and seven boys. Mrs. J. Hotchkiss has had ten, the youngest a year old and the eldest nineteen. Families with nine children are frequently found, and ten children of one mother is not uncommon. Angus McVicar has been a presented by his wife with fourteen, the oldest of whom is twenty-two. Mrs. Joseph Whelihan has sixteen, ranging from four to twenty years. Mrs. William Carden recently gave birth to a boy weighing seventeen pounds, and Mrs. A. Gilbert to twins weighing seven pounds each.

Figures from Dodgeville.

DODGEVILLE, Wis.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Brown, of Linden, are the parents of eleven children, all of whom are now living in different parts of the country. Mrs. Blankley, a daughter, is also of Linden, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Peterson, of the same town, have been blessed with families of twelve children. Mr. and Mrs. James Hutchinson, of Mineral Point, have had a like number. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Curry, of the town of Linden, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Davy, of Dodgeville, have magnified the record by one, and enjoy the enviable distinction of having become the parents of thirteen children in their respective families.

Mr. and Mrs. Erick Halverson, of Dodgeville; Mr. and Mrs. William Lunyon of Mineral Point; and Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, of Mifflin, are the parents of fourteen children. Kearton Coates, a wealthy farmer and a former member of the Legislature, of the town of Linden, is the father of fifteen children, ten girls and five boys.

Mr. and Mrs.