

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1851 edition. Excerpt: ...except in such spots, it is of the most barren description, being principally composed of a hard, yellow clay, so poor that in many localities grass will not grow. I have traveled more than a hundred miles at a time without seeing sufficient grass to furnish one good meal for a horse, or a stone as large as a pebble. The road, except in a few places where it crosses gulleys and mountains, is excellent, being hard, and as level as a floor. On the banks of the streams the fertility of the soil is such as amply to repay the farmer, and the crops seem never to exhaust the ground. I have seen pieces that have been worked more than fifty years, with sometimes two crops a year, and yet the soil does not seem to be exhausted, and all this without spreading on it a particle of manure. Were the Mexicans not so excessively lazy, they might produce any thing they chose, and in any quantity; but when the seed is put in the ground, they think they have done enough. If it should not come up, or the plant not thrive, they call on the Virgin Mary, or fall on their knees before their priest at the altar, tell him how unfortunate they are, buy a blessing, and go home with glorious expectations. Our journey to-day was extremely rough, climbing hills and mountains, and then descending them. We passed a spot where three crosses were placed beside the road. From the date, it was evident that the murders were committed quite lately, and, from the inscription on them, it was certain that men of wealth had been murdered. It was in a deep ravine, between two hills, in a place completely darkened by the overhanging bushes, so that it was a very fit locality to commit such crimes. A little further two more were seen, making five in all. Our fears were now a little excited...

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