

which we only partially succeeded. After much quarreling and fussing with the landlord we succeeded in having our trunks brought up, which like everything else is generally put off for the morning in that "douce far niente" land. We then proceeded to introduce ourselves to the American consul, who proved to be a very amiable, cordial gentleman of good intellect, who takes great care that the United States flag should be protected. He is the same gentleman that recently subdued the Nicaraguan government, when that government fired on one of our merchant vessels. We spent a delightful evening at his house and were made to believe that on Washington's birthday something extra would transpire.

The next day we spent in roaming about the city and viewing its curiosities. There was, right opposite our windows the ruins of an old cathedral, shattered by the great earthquake in 1884, which followed by an eruption of the Traquez, devastated a great portion of the country. In the city park another great cathedral stool joined by the mansion of the bishop of the district, who, we were told was a thorn in the government's side, which did not surprise us, as Catholic priesthood and Catholic government have for all times agreed to disagree sadly. The park is a beautiful bit of ground, enclosed by great bread fruit trees and dotted everywhere with flower beds of exotic beauty, enlivened by the prattle of the parrot and children alike. A band plays in this park three days in the week and every morning guard mounting is gone through with on its spacious walks. On the days of the concert the park presents an ever varying kalaidoscope of bright colors, originat-

ing from the various shawls of the *senoras* and *senoretas*, without which none of them would venture out into the streets.

Another interesting feature of this city of 20,000 inhabitants is its museum, which we visited in due time. It contains an innumerable number of stuffed birds and animals, among which the parrot, monkey, catamount and panther were most conspicuous. They have an old Egyptian mummy there, the son of the Pharo. There is a fine collection of old gold coins and figures, amulets and idols recently discovered by a lucky fellow who received \$80,000 for them from the government.

Those of my readers who went to Chicago probably saw the collection there, as they were being gotten ready for shipment when we saw them. The curios we saw are too numerous to be mentioned, so I hasten hence only naming a ferocious looking living wild cat that tried to shake hands with us through its cage, but naturally we did not accommodate him. We spent several days exploring the sights of the adjoining country, visited Allahuela, the terminus of the railroad and made several excursions into the mountains, of which it will be interesting to describe only one.

A party of ten started one morning on a back track to Carthago, there we hired necessary donkeys and guides to conduct us up the Traque. We left Carthago at noon and traveled fifteen miles that evening to a little hamlet where we rested for the night. At four in the morning we were up and off to complete the hardest part of the journey before Sol would be able to spoil the pleasure of it for us. We ascended steep inclines and sometimes followed the course of a