

ART. XXXVII.—*The Parks of Colorado.*

[THE "San Luis Park" of Colorado, in which the Rio Grande del Norte takes its rise, has recently been described by an anonymous writer, reported on good authority to be Hon. Mr. Gilpin, late Governor of Colorado. This description is so graphic and minute, and exhibits so good an acquaintance with a region which has been but little investigated, that we are led to reprint it from the ephemeral pages in which it has appeared.—Eds.]

The San Luis Park.—The San Luis park is readily entered at the extreme north through the Poncho pass, penetrating the Cordillera from the Arkansas river. This park, of elliptical form and immense dimensions, is enveloped between the Cordillera and Sierra Mimbres. It has its extreme northern point between these two Sierras, where they separate by a sharp angle and diverge: the former to the southeast, the latter to the southwest. The latitude of the Poncho pass is $38^{\circ} 30'$, the longitude 106° . It is one hundred and twenty-five miles southwest from Denver, and thirty-seven miles due west from Canyon City.

Emerging from the Poncho pass, the waters begin to gather and form the San Luis river. This flows to the south through a valley of great beauty, which rapidly widens to the right and left. On the east flank the Cordillera ascends abruptly and continuously, without any foot hills, to a sharp, snowy summit; on the west, foot hills and secondary mountains, rising one above the other, entangle the whole space to the Sierra Mimbres.

The Sawatch river has its source on the inner (eastern) flank of the Sierra Mimbres, about sixty miles south of its angle of divergence from the Cordilleras, and by a course nearly east converges toward the lower San Luis river. It enters upon the park by a similar valley. These two valleys expand into one another around this mass of foot hills, fusing into the open park, whose center is here occupied by the San Luis lake, into which the two rivers converge and discharge their waters.

The San Luis lake, extending south from the point of the foot hills, occupies the center of the park for sixty miles, forming a bowl without any outlet to its waters. It is encircled by immense saturated savannas of luxuriant grass. Its water surface expands over this savanna during the season of the melting snows upon the Sierras and shrinks when the season of evaporation returns. From the flanks of the Cordillera on the east, at intervals of six or eight miles asunder, and at very equal distances, fourteen streams, other than the San Luis, descend and converge into the San Luis lake. The belt of sloping plain between the mountains and the lake, traversed by so many parallel streams, bordered by meadows and groves of cottonwood

trees, has from this feature the name "Los Alamosos." It is sixty miles in length and twenty wide. On the opposite (western) side, from the flank of the Sierra Mimbres, similar streams, known as the Sawatch, the Carnero, and the Gareta, descend from the west into the lake.

The confluent streams thus converging into the San Luis lake are nineteen in number. The area thus occupied by this isolated lake and drained into it by its converging affluents, forming distinctly the northern section of the park, and being one-third of its whole surface, is classified under the general name of "Rincon."

Advancing onward to the south, along the west edge of the plains, ten miles from the Gareta, the Rio del Norte issues from its mountain gorge. Its source is in the perpetual snows of the peaks of San Juan, the local name given to this stupendous culmination of the Sierra Mimbres. The Del Norte flows from its extreme source due east one hundred and fifty miles, and having reached the longitudinal middle of the park turns abruptly south, and bisecting the park for perhaps one hundred and fifty miles, passed beyond its rim in its course to the Gulf of Mexico. All the streams descending from the enveloping Sierras (other than the Alamosos) converge into it their tributary waters. On the west come in successively the Pintada, the Rio del Gata, the Rio de la Gara, the Conejos, the San Antonio, and the Pieda. These streams, six or eight miles asunder, parallel, equidistant, fed by the snows of the Sierra Mimbres, have abundant waters, very fertile areas of land, and are all of the very highest order of beauty.

Advancing again from the Rincon, at the eastern edge of the plain along the base of the Cordillera, the prodigious conical mass of the Sierra Blanca protrudes like a vast hemisphere into the plain and blocks the vision to the direct south. The road describes the arc of a semi-circle around its base for thirty miles, and reaches Fort Garland.

In the immediate vicinity of Fort Garland, the three large streams, the Yuta, Sangre de Christo, and the Trenchera, descend from the Cordillera, converge, unite a few miles west, and blending themselves in the Trenchera, flow west twenty-four miles into the Rio del Norte. The line of the snowy Cordillera, hidden behind the bulk of the Sierra Blanca, here again reveals itself pursuing its regular south-southeast course and direction. Fourteen miles south is reached the town of San Luis, upon the Calebra river; seventeen miles further is the town of Costilla, upon the Costilla river; fifteen miles further the town of Rito Colorado is reached; eighteen miles onward is the Arroyo Hondo; (between these is the San Cristova;) from the Arroyo Hondo to Taos is fourteen miles; twenty miles beyond Taos is

the mountain chain whose circle toward the west forms the southern mountain barrier which encloses the San Luis park in that direction.

The San Luis park is then an immense elliptical bowl, the bed of a primeval sea which has been drained; its bottom, smooth as a water surface and concave, is 9,400 square miles in area. It is watered by thirty-five mountain streams, which, descending from the encircling crests of snow, converge, nineteen into the San Luis lake, the rest into the Rio del Norte. An extraordinary symmetry of configuration is its prominent feature. The scenery, everywhere sublime, has the everchanging variety of the kaleidoscope. Entirely around the edge of the plain, and closing the junction of the plain with the mountain foot, runs a smooth glacis, exactly resembling the sea beach, which accompanies the conjunction of the land with the ocean. From this beach rise continuously all around the horizon the great mountains, elevating their heads above the line of perpetual snow. On the eastern side the escarpment of the Cordillera rises rapidly, and is abrupt; on the western side the crest of the Sierra Mimbres is more remote, having the interval filled with ridges, lessening in altitude as they descend to the plain of the park. This continuous shelving flank of the Sierras, completing a perfect amphitheater, has a superficial area equal to that of the level plain which it envelops, and gives to the whole enclosure within the encircling band of snow an area of 18,000 square miles. At an elevation of five or six thousand feet above the plain a level line upon the mountain wall marks the cessation of arborsence, above which naked granite and snow alone are seen. To one who ascends to this elevation at any point, the whole interior of this prodigious amphitheatre is scanned by the eye and swept in at a single glance. Aided by a glass, the smallest objects scattered over the immense elliptical area beneath are discernible through the limpid, brilliant, and translucent atmosphere. Two facts impress themselves upon the senses: the perfect symmetry of configuration in nature and the intense variety in the forms and splendor of the landscape. The colors of the sky and atmosphere are intensely vivid and gorgeous; the dissolving tints of light and shade are forever interchanging; they are as infinite as are the altering angles of the solar rays in their diurnal circuit.

The average elevation of the plain above the sea level is 6,400 feet. The highest peaks have an altitude 16,000 feet above the sea. In the serrated rim of the park, as seen from the plain, projected against the canopy, are discernable seventeen peaks, at very equal distance one from another. Each one differs from all the rest in some peculiarity of shape and position. Each one identifies itself by some striking beauty. From the

snows of each one descends some considerable river, as well within the park as outward down the external mountain bank.

We recognize, therefore, in the San Luis Park an immense elliptical basin enveloping the sources of the Rio Bravo del Norte. It is isolated in the heart of the continent, twelve hundred miles from the sea. It is morticed, as it were, into the midst of the vast mountain bulk, where, rising gradually from the oceans, the highest altitude and amplitude of the continent is attained. This park spreads its plain from 36° to $38^{\circ} 30'$, and is bisected by the 106th meridian. Its greatest length is 210 miles; its greatest width is 100; its aggregate approximate area is 18,000 square miles.

Such being the geographical position, altitude, and peculiar unique configuration, these features suggest the inquiry into parallel peculiarities of meteorology, geology, physical structure, agriculture, mineralogy, and the economy of labor.

The American people have heretofore developed their social system exclusively on the borders of the two oceans, and within the maritime valleys of moderate altitude, having navigation and an atmosphere influenced by the sea. To them, then, the contrast is complete in every feature, in these high and remote altitudes beyond all influence of the ocean, and specially continental.

There is an identity between the "Valley or Park of the City of Mexico" and the San Luis park which ought to be here mentioned. They are similar, twin basins of the great plateau, classifying together and alike in the physical structure of the continent. Mexico is in latitude 20° , longitude 99° , and at 7,500 of altitude. The width of the continent is here 575 miles (from ocean to ocean,) and the divergence of the Cordilleras is 275 miles, which is here the width of the plateau. At the 39° the continent expands to a width of 8,500 miles between the oceans; the Cordilleras have diverged 1,200 miles asunder, and the plateau has widened the same dimensions. In harmony with this great expansion of the continent are all the details of its interior structure. The "Park of the City of Mexico" is but one-tenth in size and grandeur as compared and contrasted with the San Luis park. Of identical anatomy, the former is a pigmy, the latter a giant. The similitude as component parts of the mountain anatomy is in all respects absolute, as is also true of the other parks, which occupy longitudinally the center of the State of Colorado.

Meteorology.—The atmospheric condition of the San Luis park, like its scenery, is one of constant brilliancy, both by day and night, obeying steady laws, yet alternating with a kind of playfully methodical fickleness. There are no prolonged vernal or autumnal seasons. Summer and winter divide the year.

Both are characterized by mildness of temperature. After the autumnal equinox the snows begin to accumulate upon the mountains. After the vernal equinox they dissolve. The formation of light clouds upon the crest of the Sierras is incessant. The meridian sun retains its vitalizing heat around the year; at midnight prevails a corresponding tonic coolness. The clouds are wafted away by the steady atmospheric currents coming from the west. They rarely interrupt the sunshine, but refracting his rays, imbue the canopy with a shining silver light, at once intense and brilliant. The atmosphere and climate are essentially continental, being uninterruptedly salubrious, brilliant, and tonic.

The flanks of the great mountains, bathed by the embrace of these irrigating clouds, are clad with dense forests of pine, fir, spruce, hemlock, aspen, oak, cedar, pinon, and a variety of smaller fruit trees and shrubs, which protect the sources of springs and running rivulets. Among the forests alternate mountain meadows of luxuriant and nutritious grasses. The ascending clouds, rarely condensed, furnish little irrigation at the depressed elevation of the plains, which are destitute of timber, but clothed in grass. These delicate grasses, growing rapidly during the annual melting of the snows, cure into hay as the aridity of the atmosphere returns. They form perennial pastures, and supply the winter food of the aboriginal cattle, everywhere indigenous and abundant.

An infinite variety in temper and temperature is suggested as flowing from close juxtaposition of extreme altitudes and depressions; permanent snows, running rivers, and the concentric courses of the mountains and rivers. Storms of rain and wind are neither frequent nor lasting. The air is uniformly dry, having a racy freshness and exhilarating taste. A soothing serenity is the prevailing impression upon those who live perpetually exposed to the seasons. Mud is never anywhere or at any time seen. Moderation and concord appear to result from the presence and contact of elements so various.

The critical conclusions to which a rigid study of nature brings the scrutinizing mind are the reverse of first impressions. The multitudinous variety of nature adjusts itself with a delicate harmony which brings into healthy action all the industrial energies. There is no use for the practice of professional pharmacy. Chronic health and longevity characterize animal life. The envelope of cloud-compelling peaks, the seclusion from the oceans, the rarity of the air inhaled, and the absence of humidity disinfect the earth, the water, and the atmosphere of exhalations and miasmas. Health, sound and uninterrupted, stimulate and sustain a high tone of mental and physical energy. All of these are banished, as it were, by the perpetual brilliancy

and salubrity of the atmosphere and landscape, whose unfailing beauty and tonic taste stimulate and invite the physical and mental energies to perpetual activity.

Geology and Minerals.—As a geological basin, the San Luis park is in the highest degree interesting and remarkable. It is found to contain, intermingled and in order, a complete epitome of all the elements of which geological science and research take note. Its intra-mural locality between the primeval crests of the Cordillera, on the east, and the Sierra Mimbres, (here called the "San Juan,") on the west, multiplies this variety indefinitely. These primary Sierras, separated by the park, face one another in full sight, as they rear their flanks from the opposite edges of the concave plain. The successive periods and stupendous forces which have expended themselves to produce what is in sight, and then subsided to an eternal rest, each particularly manifest itself. The comb of the Sierra presents the prodigious plates of primeval porphyry driven up, as the sub-soil of a furrow, from the lowest terrestrial crust and protruding their vertical edges toward the sky.

This summit yielding to the corroding forces, presents a wedge toward the canopy; is arranged in peaks resembling the teeth of a saw; is above all arborescence, and is either clad in perpetual snow, or is bald rock.

Against this is lapped perpendicularly the second stratum, less by many thousand feet in altitude, its top forming a brim or bench. This bench, being the rended edge of the erupted stratum, softer than the first and receiving the debris from above, has a deep, fertile soil, a luxuriant alpine vegetation, forests of fir and aspen, and is the highest region of arborescence and vegetable growth.

This is the region of rocks where the metals, especially gold and silver, abound in crevices charged and infused with the richest ores. It is from hence that the gold of the gulches is disintegrated and descends. Here are springs of water and the sources of rivers. The timber is excellent and the pastures of various grasses luxuriant and inexhaustible. Swept by ascending currents of vapor, irrigation is constant. This elevated bench is a permanent characteristic of the mountain flank, continuous as the continent itself; a colossal staircase whose steps are themselves of mountain magnitude. It is here, at these surfaces of contact of the erupted plates of the lowest terrestrial crust, that the thread of the "gold belt" is revealed and found. From this thread, as from a core outward, the precious metals taper in quantity and become diluted in the immensity of the rocks, as a hill of rock salt disappears to the eye, dissolved in the immensity of the ocean.

The top of this continuous bench is undulating, broad, and

occasionally crossed by transverse ridges and the chasms of water-courses. The front flank of this bench forms the stupendous escarpment of the mountains, everywhere lofty and precipitous. It is cut through by innumerable streams, up whose gorges access to the upper regions is attained, and the internal contents, the intestines, as it were, of the rocks are revealed to sight and search.

Forming the pediment of this stupendous mural escarpment is the second brim or bench (being the lowest) in the general mountain descent. Here the approaching elevation of the plain, the increase in size of the streams, the accumulating debris from above, and the increased atmospheric abrasion, all unite to obliterate the angularity of the rocks and impair the striking distinctness of formation. Forests of pine and deciduous trees prevail. The flora and vegetation is abundant and various. The atmospheric irrigation becomes uncertain, and the rocks are covered with soil or the fragments of their own superficial destruction. Immediately following is the broad space occupied by the fusion of the mountain base and the plain gently descending to meet it. Here is a profile infinitely indented and broken; alternately the sloping ridges protrude their ribs into the plain, and the plain advances its valleys between them to receive the streams. This is the region of the placers, where is checked in its descent and lodged beneath the alluvian soil the free gold washed down by torrents from the overhanging summits.

This sketch of the normal structure and configuration of the Cordillera is illustrated by a chequered list of details in its minute elements. The primeval rocks, heated to incandescence, rest in their vertical positions unaltered from their original form; they have been roasted but not liquified. Original strata of limestone and gypsum, uplifted on high but not destroyed, rest upon the summit as a torn hat. Gypsum, limestones, slates, clays, shales, are thus found near the highest summits. The decay of the secondary rocks gives extraordinary fertility to the mountain flanks and to the alluvial bottoms below. Hence the luxuriance of the arborescence, the pastures, and the flora. The altitude of the summits gathers and retains the snows, whose glaciers give birth to innumerable rivers. These gash the precipitous flanks with chasms, up which roads ascend; the composition of the rocks is here revealed; the mysteries of their interior contents are unravelled, and the secretions of nature subjected to the human eye and hand.

Thus, then, erects itself the primeval Cordillera, constructed of horizontal plates, vertically thrown up by stupendous volcanic forces, partially altered or roasted by incandescent heat, but neither destroyed nor recast in form; the secondary rocks are

tossed and scattered high in the upper regions, but are not calcined by flame. The metallic ores are as various as is the variety of the rocks, enriched by heat and exposed by upheaval and corrosion. No lava, no pumice, no obsidian, nothing of melted matter from the plutonic region is seen. This furrowing of the terrestrial crust has alone occupied and exhausted the stupendous volcanic throes of the subterranean world of fire.

Sierra Mimbres.—The Sierra Mimbres, forming the western envelope of the park, is not dissimilar to the Cordillera in its origin, composition, and configuration. Rising from the level of the great plateau, it is of inferior bulk and rank. It forms the backbone from whose contrasted flanks descend the waters of the Rio del Norte on the east, and of the Colorado on the west.

Craters of extinct volcanoes are numerous; streams of lava, once liquid, abound; pedrigals of semi-crystalline basalt submerge and cover the valleys into which they have flowed, and over which they have hardened.

This Sierra, then, has a general direction from north to south, corresponding with the 109th meridian. It has all the characteristics in miniature of the Cordillera, but is chequered and interrupted by the escape of subterranean fires, having areas overflowed and buried beneath the erupted current. Where the nascent springs of the Rio del Norte have their birth, the Sierra Mimbres culminate to stupendous peaks of perennial snow, locally named Sierra San Juan.

The concave plain of the San Luis park, begirt by this elliptical zone of the Sierras, thus capped with a ragged fringe of snow projected upward against the canopy, is the receptacle of their converging waters. It is a bowl of vast amplitude, which has for countless ages received and kept the sedimentary settlements of so prodigious a circuit of Sierras, builded up with every variety of form, structure and geological elements elsewhere found to enter into the architecture of nature. Hither descend the currents of water, of the atmosphere, of lava. The rocks rent from the naked pinnacles, tortured by the intense vicissitudes which assail them; the fragments rolled by the perpetual pressure of gravity upon the descending slopes; the sands and soils from the foundations of rocks and clays of every gradation of hardness; the humus of expired forests and annual vegetation; elements carbonized by transient fires; organic decay; all these elements descend, intermingle, and accumulate.

This concave plain is, then, a bowl filled with sedimentary drift, covered with soil and varnished over as it were with vegetation. The northern department or Rincon, closely embraced by the Sierras and occupied by the San Luis lake, is a vast sa-

vanna deposited from the filtration of the waters, highly impregnated with the mountain debris. Beneath this soil is a continuous pavement of peat, which maintains the saturation of the super-soil, and is admirable for fuel.

The middle region of the plain, longitudinally, displays a crater of the most perfect form. The interior pit has a diameter of twenty miles, from the center of which is seen the circumferent wall forming an exact circle, and in height five hundred feet. This wall is a barranca, composed of lava, pumice, calcined lime, metamorphosed sandstone, vitrified rocks, and obsidian. This circumferent barranca is perforated through by the entrance and departure of the Rio del Norte, the Calebra, and the Costilla rivers, which traverse the northern, western and southern edges of the interior. By this and other forces of corrosion this barranca is on these three sides cut into isolated hills, called ceritos, of every fantastic form and of extraordinary beauty of shape and tints. The bottom of the crater has been filled up with the soils resulting from the decay of this variety of material, introduced by the currents of the water and of the atmosphere. It is beveled by these forces to a perfect level; is of the fattest fertility, and drained through the porous formation which underlies it.

From this crater to its southern rim, a distance of sixty-five miles, the park expands over a prodigious pedrigal formed from it in the period of volcanic activity. This pedrigal retains its level, and is perforated by the the Rio del Norte, whose longitudinal course is confined in a profound chasm or cañon, of perpendicular walls of lava, increasing to the depth of 1,200 feet, where it debouches from the jaws of this gigantic flood of lava, near the village of La Joya, in New Mexico. Such are the extraordinary forms and stupendous dimensions with which nature here salutes the eye and astonishes the imagination. The expansion of the lava is all to the south, following the descent toward the sea. Toward the north, repelled by the ascent, are waves demonstrating the defeated effort to climb the mountain base.

Such is an imperfect sketch of this wonderful amphitheater of the Sierras. Its physical structure is infinitely complex, exhibiting all the elements of nature piled in contact, yet set together in order and arranged in harmony; its cloud-compelling Sierras, of stern primeval matter and proportions; its concave basin of fat fertility; its atmosphere of dazzling brilliancy, tonic temperature, and gorgeous tints; its arable and pastoral excellence, grand forests, and multitude of streams; its infinite variety of mines and minerals, embracing the whole catalogue of metals, rocks, clays and fuel; its capacity to produce grain, flax,

wool, hides, vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry, and dairy food; the compact economy of arrangement which blends and inter-fuses all these varieties; these combine to provoke, stimulate, and reward the taste for physical and mental labor.

Entrance and exit over the rim of the park is everywhere made easy by convenient passes. Roads re-enter upon it from all points of the compass and every portion of the surrounding continent. These are not obstructed at any season. On the north is the Poncho pass, leading to the Upper Arkansas river, and into the south park. On the east, the Mosca and Sangre de Christo passes debouch immediately upon the great plains. On the south is the channel of the Rio del Norte. On the west easy roads diverge to the rivers Chamas, San Juan, and toward Arizona. In the northwest the Cocha-to-pee opens to the great Salt Lake and the Pacific. Convenient thoroughfares and excellent roads converge from all points and diverge with the same facility.

The system of the four parks, extending to the north, indefinitely amplifies and repeats all that characterizes the San Luis park. Smaller in size and less illustrated by variety, each one of the three by itself lingers behind the San Luis, but is an equal ornament in the same family. Their graceful forms, their happy harmony of contact and position, make their aggregated attractions the fascinating charm and glory of the American continent.

The abundance and variety of hot springs of every modulation of temperature is very great. These are also equalled by waters of medicinal virtues. It has been the paradise of the aboriginal stock; elsewhere so abundant and various. Fish, waterfowl, and birds of game and song and brilliant plumage frequent the streams and groves. Animal life is indefinite in quantity and abundantly various.

The atmospheric currents which sweep away every exhalation and all traces of malaria and miasma have an undeviating rotation. These currents are necessarily vertical in direction and equable in force, alternating smoothly as land and sea currents of the tropical islands of the ocean. The silence and serenity of the atmosphere are not ruffled; the changing temperature alone indicates the motion of nature.

All around the elliptical circumference of the plain, following as it were its shore, and bending with the indented base of the mountain, is an uninterrupted road of unparalleled excellence. This circuit is five hundred miles in length, and is graced with a landscape of uninterrupted grandeur, variety and beauty; on the one hand the mountains, on the other hand the concave plain, diversified with groves of alamos and volcanic cerros. At short intervals of five or ten miles asunder are crossed the

swift-running current and fertile meadows of the converging mountain streams. Hot springs mingle their warm water with all these streams, which swarm with delicate fish and waterfowl.

The works of the beaver and otter are everywhere encountered, and water power for machinery is of singularly universal distribution. Agriculture classifies itself into pastoral and arable; the former subsisting on the perennial grasses, the latter upon irrigation everywhere attained by the streams and artificial acequias. This concave configuration and symmetry of structure is remarkably propitious in economy of labor and production, favored by the juxtaposition and variety of material, by the short and easy transport, and by the benignant atmosphere.

The supreme excellence of position, structure, and productions thus grouped within the system of the parks of Colorado, occupying the heart of the continental home of the American people, is conclusively discernable. Here is the focus of the mountains, of the great rivers and of the metals of the continent. The great rivers have here their extreme sources, which interlock and form innumerable and convenient passes from sea to sea. From these they descend smoothly to both oceans by continuous gradations. The parks occupy the line of the fortieth degree, and offer the facilities for a lodgement in force, at the highest altitude, where the highest divide of the continent exists, half way between the trough of the Mississippi and the Pacific shore. Being immediately approachable over the great plains their mines of precious metals are the nearest in the world to the social masses of the American people and to their great commercial cities. Their accessibility is perfect. All the elements of a perfect economy, food, health, geographical position, innumerable mines of the richest ores and every variety, erect, assist, and fortify one another.

The San Luis park has twenty-four thousand population. These people are of the Mexican-American race. Since the conquest of Cortez, A. D. 1520, the Mexican people have acquired and adopted the language, religion, and in modified forms the political and social systems of their European rulers. A taste for seclusion has always characterized the aboriginal masses, heightened by the geographical configuration of their peculiar territory. Upon the plateau elevated seven thousand feet above the oceans, and encased within an uninterrupted barrier of snow, reside nine millions of homogeneous people. An instinctive terror of the ocean, of the torrid heats and malarious atmosphere of the narrow coasts on either sea, perpetually haunts the natives of the plateau. To them navigation is unknown and marine life is abhorrent. The industrial energies of the people always active and elastic, and always recoiling from the sea, have expanded to the north, following the longitudinal direction

of the plateau, of the mountains, and of the great rivers. This column of progress advances from south to north ; it has reached and permanently occupies the southern half of the San Luis park.

At the same moment the column of the American people advancing in force across the middle belt of the continent, from east to west, is solidly lodged upon the eastern flank of the Cordillera, and is everywhere entering the parks through the passes. These two American populations, all of the Christian faith, here meet front to front, harmonize, intermarry, and reinvigorate the blended mass with the peculiar domestic accomplishments of each other.

The Mexican contributes his primitive skill, inherited for centuries without change, in the manipulations of pastoral and mining industry, and in the tillage of the soil by artificial irrigation. The American adds to these machinery and the intelligence of expansive progress. The grafted stock has the sap of both. As the coming continental railroad hastens to bind together our people isolated on the seas, a longitudinal railroad of 2,000 miles will unite with this in its middle course, bisecting the Territory, States and cities of 10,000,000 of affiliated people. This will fuse and harmonize the isolated peoples of our continent into one people, in all the relations of commerce, affinity and concord.

San Louis di Calebra, July 5, 1866.