Frederick Starr Papers

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No. 5.

Mexico trip: 1900. March.

Frederick Starr (30)

University of Chicago.

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going in pieces were wheels which gave really pretty effects in showers of sparks, rotating lights and combinations like the three-comma symbols of Japan, op. The sky rockets were rather ingeniously arranged on a frame support, in a line of six so connected that one lighting sufficed to send off the whole set, one after another: they were falling rain, serpents, lines of stars and stars: they were also frequently explosive with a resulting red or green light hung to a parachute and changing from the one to the other color. There were three main pieces or castillos, only one of which gave rise to real combinating of form by falling and opening. The display began at ten and lasted about a half hour. I left Manuel to sleep on the hall and at a little before 12 went over to the station. Got a second class ticket to avoid a third class crowd and found the section fuller certainly there would have been the other car! but left promptly and 24th. I reached Jalapa on time. Tho it was only about 6 A/c. I found that Ramon had already gone to work. Going up to the Governor's I found that the work was in progress: both Ramon and his employee were hard at it. He promised to get through so as to come up on tonight's train. Leaving him money and directions and taking breakfast with him at La Luz Electrica, I left him to go back to

his work at once I sat reading until nearly train time when I went down to the Station & got my choice of seats in the third class coach. I spread my blanket at the back end, put up my window and took real comfort. I not only was not crowded but was treated with high consideration. Next me was a nice clean young fellow who was with his mother: she was apparently pretty near pure Indian, he appeared mestizo. He was little used to travel and was a good deal worried over train and tickets and time and commented me anxiously about several points. He was plainly flush and bought anything he or his mother saw for sale. Thus chalupas, tamales, carne, platanos, dulces, flores — all were purchased as they presented themselves and of all I was forced to take my share. I was really a little relieved when we reached Las Vigas where they got off. The news agent on his part showed himself most friendly. He plainly considered me a gentleman of good condition who had fallen on hard times and loaned me newspapers and gave me bananas. As we neared Puebla he became anxious to know certain English words: he really knows a considerable number and his pronunciation is rather unusually good. He was delighted at my pedagogic ability and warmly advised my setting up of cátedraticos of Engles

Mexican Signs.

1.) Raise forefinger right hand: raise hand to ear + strike back of ear (or lay finger against back of ear): Vamonos.

2) Raise forfinger of right hand and raise hand to level of ear: at a little distance (four or five inches) from head wave it twice back and forth: Da me un cigarro.

3) Fold right hand, so that the thumb and forfinger make a circle: the other fingers are in same position as the forfinger. Lay this ring against the right cheek. Question to a girl - "Me quieres". If she says the forfinger of her right hand & lays her hand thus against her cheek the reply is affirmative.

4) Make a large circle with thumb and forefinger of the right hand, the other fingers being folded down, and hold the hand up & out. Que le importa?

5) a similar hand form but so placed as to show the ring means pesos or duros: with other fingers open — centavos.

6) Right hand: thumb and middle finger make a circle: forefinger crooked parallel to this: last two fingers folded down. Cuando?

7) Right hand. Thumb and third (fourth) finger make a circle: other fingers crooked parallel. Ahora.

8) Right hand: thumb and fourth (little) finger make a circle: all others crooked parallel. Manana.

9) Right hand: fist tightly closed and thumb held straight and tangentially to the rounded forefinger. En la tarde.

10) Spit; then move the open right hand out and forward from the mouth. Dengo sed

11) With extended forefinger, right hand, stroke (scratch) the Adam's apple. Quiero pulque.

12)

predicting certain success. He was quite disgusted on finding that I was not a Poblano and that the scheme was not very alluring but assured me that hereafter when I wanted to ride on the Interoceanic I should select his train and it should cost me nought! Long before we reached Puebla I noticed an old Indian and his wife entering the train sit down across from me - diagonally. Just as they sat down I saw a curious movement under the seat: looking a little closely I saw that a girl of some ten or twelve years who belonged to them was tucking herself away to avoid fare paying. After she was in position they so sat as to largely shield her. I could only see her little bare feet pressed one over the other and both against the rear wall. There the little one lay absolutely motionless more than a hour. After danger was past and tickets had finally been lifted she crept out between and behind them and sat down between them almost out of sight. When I reached the station no boys were there. I was surprised but thought they might have waited - as I directed at home to receive Romualdo, whom I had invited to supper. But arrived there they had not been in for a couple of hours, and Romualdo had come and gone! They had been out swimming and it was really some time before they got home! After supper I sent them around to Romualdo's to make my

apology and then I tried to call on Spencer and Borton - but unsuccessfully. ——

25th. When we got up Ramon had already arrived. We made a busy day of it. I packed a box of folklore objects and took it to Spencer's for shipment; borrowed a hundred pesos: packed and shipped my trunk: telegraphed for berths; went to the market to see a Mixteco catecismo - it is recent 1899, "by a Mixteco", and cost me 30 centavos; tried a fifth time to see Borton, unsuccessfully. At 3 p.c. Romualdo called. He had my aztec "account"; also some books to show me, which I had already seen. I took a final lot of notes from him and he took supper with us. Afterward I took him around to Mr Spencer's to introduce him. Manuel was along and we made a parting call. —— The boy was around to see us off 26th in the morning. He never looked nicer or more Mexican: with his new shoes and pantaloons clean blouse and sombrero. He felt pretty bad over our going and was crying when we really pulled out. He must have gone home and written a letter right away for a sadly lonely epistle was in my mail when I reached home! The Fair was fairly full. With Ramon who took a double seat by him-

self opposite us sat a gentleman - who spoke Spanish but did not seem to know much of Mexico. He was slim, gray, with an asymmetrical face, swelled jaw, and a game eye. I suspected him - and knew later - that he spied Ramon about me. Dr. Baca was on the train: a fact which greatly pleased me as I had regretted greatly that I had not been able to call on him. I thanked him for the brain-work; talked over his Tattuages; showed him my Album; and talked over his prospects. He was on his way to see President Diaz: he wants the appointment to a similar work in the great new Penitentiary at Mexico that he has at that of Puebla. He appears quite certain of his appointment. He does not propose to relinquish his hold on the other but appears to design to follow Putnam's example & run two things at once. He does not propose however to put Dr. Vergara in charge; he made some curious and interesting strictures upon that gentleman's work and ability. Arriving at the City on time we bade Ramon goodbye and then began a busy days work. Secured our sections; called on Ortiz several times, went to his

house to get some things; saw Abadiano and bought nine vols. of Ramirez' Diccionario; saw Herrera at the Museum; bought a Peru Ilmo Catecismo and Manualito at the corner book-store; got a box for books, packed it and left it for Bassett to ship. When we went to the Napkins House for our satchel and were saying "goodbye" were introduced to a Mr Cox who knew of me as he has been a student at Pomona College. He and another American are here running a photographic finishing establishment. We were dead tired when we got into our car and went to bed as soon as possible, giving last orders to be waked before reaching Bilao. Depending on the porter, I paid no attention to time. I think I was awake while we were there! but I did not look out and if Dr Hyde was down in re-27th-sponse to my request he missed me & I him! We were more lucky at Aguas bel-tientes, where we breakfasted. Lawyer and Dr Wallace were both at the station and we had quite a visit. Lawyer has lately spent a month in jail, the result of an at-tack he made in his paper on a priest.

They had him in bad shape and it looked like a true imprisonment if the case were carried through the courts. The matter was dropped however as the defense looked up the priests past record and were prepared to make things interesting. ——— Among the passengers was Ramsgate-eyed friend, who hailed my identity with the result that a Mr and Mrs. Welch of Iowa City forced themselves upon us and informed us that they knew Prof. Blackburn of the University, having met him last Summer at Yellowstone Park. They were a couple, who nag each other when unknown but who put on a placid exterior to the world. With them are a Mr & Mrs. Sawyer also of I.C. Mrs. S. joined our band at times, but Sawyer had sense enough to prefer the smoking room. The whole lot got off at 2 8th Chihuahua. During the day the game eye made me a visit and told me some interesting questions he has come on. He knows the Basque language — by the way claims there are 5000 Basques in San Francisco, where he lives — and took part in the excitement of the Carlos war. He claims that there is an Indian tribe

in California, the , who have Basque
words. He spent three weeks among them to
investigate and found seventy-five that are
the same. Asked if the nomads are alike
he replied no. He wrote some articles on
his investigation for a magazine. At
El Paso we were crowded into a single section.
29th In the morning some of my fellow passengers
gained on me and I opened the album for
a Mr. Pritchett who proved to be a brother of
Prof. Pritchett and who, in his travels, has
gone into all sorts of out of the way places,
is interested in the Indians and uses a
camera professionally. At 1 P.M. we
reached Las Vegas and were met by Hewett.
He gave us a lunch and arranged for our beds on
the R.R. house (Harvey's). We then went up to
the University (N.M. Normal) which is a good
three story stone building on a site, which
will in time be sightly. The reading room, &
were shown us. The third floor will be devoted
to Museum purposes and one third of it is now
so used. Pres. Hewett is an ornithologist and
the collection in N.M. bird is well under
weigh. The results of their last Summer's

work in archaeology we went over. They were
three months in the field at the Puye and the
Pajarito. They have some good pottery: also
metates, some with their own manos; also tortilla
baking slabs and weight stones: there are a
lot of hammerstones and slingstones: regarding
these latter, one of his native assistants re-
members a battle in which such were actually
used. There are some good axes and picks but
the most interesting in this line were some
broken or crude ones showing signs of actual
use. I was much interested in their map of the
region from the Puye to the Rito. It is probably
the best topographical map of the region and
shows the location of three classes of construc-
tion - cave houses, large pueblos, small stone
houses. The collection of photographs they
have made of the rock paintings and sculp-
tures is large and interesting. It will be
classified and studied. The bulk of their col-
lecting of last year went to Washington. The
report will be printed by the Bureau. The
Institution will carry on the work next year
and, as I understand independently. There
is a class in General Anthropology conducted

by Pres. Hewett. I was sorry the Institution is having vacation as I would have liked to see the work in progress. From the school we went to the House. Mrs. H. is a good helper to her husband and enjoys archaeology. She is however — I judge — somewhat of an invalid. Some nice things are kept at the house. Mr. Hewett thinks he demonstrates the fact that the cave houses were many of them occupied more than once: the evidence is three-fold — (a) Many doors and windows are built up, plastered over and lost sight of. (b) the walls, neatly washed with yellow clay are found <u>carved</u> below the clay. (c) two floors are found: between them the relics are absolutely comparable with the artefacts of near occupied pueblos: below the lower are pottery & other relics of a different culture — small, thick, rather crudely made. The task is <u>tiring</u>: the others could only be <u>strengthening</u> evidence, not real demonstration. The President has gained newspaper notoriety for a recent address he gave: he is understood to have suggested evidence of glacial and Tertiary man. Nor did he in his explanation to me demonstrate that his skulls were clear

I feel quite sure he hopes for something startling in the near future in the archeol-geological way. If however he is not over critical he will get left. He mentioned objects in good "ivory" as relics and in use and was clearly of idea that the ivory must be mammoth or mastodon ivory taken fresh. Bitter was my disappointment to have two of these turn out shell - one perhaps shell-porcelain imitation! He showed me some quartz pebbles with minute grooves rubbed in them and says the Indians declare that they use such in ceremonies now & rub the thumb back & forth to develope phosphorescence, which they then transfer to an implement to produce lightning. He referred to Eldodt as knowing something along this line. This seems to me a curious and really doubtful matter. Mr. Powell - teacher in the school is a great helper & enthusiastic worker with Hewett. He is now planning to go to Mesa as the Pueblos time to observe and photograph. After dinner we talked a long time and Mr. Hewett went to the Hotel with us where we talked again until nearly 11 o'c.

Kansas University - geological party.
discovery of old pueblo (?) ruins in West-
-ern Kansas.

We had a comfortable bed but I did not sleep a bit. We were out at 4. Train a little late but pulled out at 4.30 We got into

30th the Tourist sleeper between Trinidad and La Junta and had an entirely uneventful ride home – arriving at home at

31st. 9.p.m.

fireworks. 1.
Puebla 1.5.
Jalapa. 1.
Ramon Godinez. 1.6.
Gov. Dchesa. 1
train incidents. 2+5. 8-10. 13.
gestures, 3.4
Manuel Gonzalez 5.6.
Louis Grabic. 5.
Romualdo Zuechi. 5+6.
W.S. Spencer. 6.
Frank Borton. 6.
linguistics. 6.8
Baca 7.
Vergara. 7.
Cox. 8.
A. George B. Hyde. 8.
Frank P. Lawyer. 8
A. Wallace. 8.
Mr. & Mrs. Welch. 9.
game-cops. 7.9+
Pritchett. 10.
Edgar L. Hewett. 10+12
Las Vegas 12+
Pajarito - Puye. 11-12.
Powell. 13.

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