

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

Below Oklahoma City, Sept 3.

My dear Mother,

I did not intend to write you again en route, but we have had an exciting twenty-four hours and I will do so. We reached Reno in early evening so nearly to Chickasaw. Here we should have crossed the Canadian R. But the bridge was tottering & it was decided not to try it. During the night we went back to Reno and on to Seary. Here we crossed the River & soon found the track washed out ahead. We were in danger of being flooded on the plain & so backed to the River & across. It was dreadful and the rising water made us all tremble. Hardly had we

got back to Geary when the bridge we
had passed went out. Just before the other
that we refused to pass went. We then
went east to Oklahoma City hoping to go
from there direct to Chickasha but found
the bridge there had gone. Here to add to
our discomforts & disquietude we had a
near end collision & several passengers
hurt. Neither Mr. S. nor I suffered any
damage. Then we transferred our train
to the A. T. & F. tracks & struck due so.
We got safely across the Canadian at last
tho the flood was wild & water was on both
sides the track beyond the bridge. We still
have the Red River between us & Ft. Worth
and the Texas between there & El Paso. Both
are full but bridges are still up. If all
goes well we may be at E.P. by Wednes-
day morning. We are all tired & we have
sick & injured. 300 people on train - all
since Monday or Monday! Love, I. H. W.

City of Mexico, Oct. 9. 1904.

My dear Mother,

After unheard of difficulties, at the end of eleven days and six hours, we reached here last night at midnight. This for a trip that should have taken four days and eighteen hours! I have already written you particulars up to El Paso. We left there on time Thursday morning & should have reached here at noon on Saturday. We were delayed twelve hours as we had to transfer around a bridge - the original was washed out and the temporary substitute was burned - and had difficulty with a tree stump which someone placed on the track. Fortunately the latter did not de-

rail us. Of course we were terribly tired of
the journey. Mr Spencer stopped off at Silas
yesterday at 4 p.m. while I came on through.
It is now not yet 8 a.m. and I am writing
before I go out to breakfast. I shall
be very busy on this trip which is one of clear-
ing up & working at all sorts of odds and
ends for the new book. I shall not try
to write a letter on Tuesday because you
know now that I am here and in safety
and that I am to be so busy. I hope
you are both well. With love,
Frederick Starr.

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

City of Mexico, Oct. 25. 1904.

My dear Mother,

On my return from my western trip, I found your letter of Oct. 13. Yes - the Exposition will be over before my return. My Aime ought to start for home Dec. 1. and reach there by Christmas. However, it is more than likely that they may be delayed. Funny for Henry Keeler to use my name at the Fair. He never honored me with attendance at my lectures, nor - though an enthusiastic & attending member of the Historical Society - at the medal occasion. Officially the Philippine Exposition would respond to the use of my name. I have never felt that the horse full of strangers distressed Ed. On the contrary he loved to watch them all - strangers as well as others. He like

people. As for those of his own, he loves to see them and to talk over old times. For some things his memory is remarkable.

I wrote you last & think from Acambaro. I left there that morning and reached Morelia at noon. This is one of the really attractive towns of the Republic, Capital of the State of Michoacan. It has a fine old Cathedral, a lot of picturesque spots, a pretty wooded park with a fine stone aqueduct more than a hundred years old in it. I had two errands there - one to see a recent development in Spanish hands of the old Indian art of lacquer work and the other to see Romualdo Quechol, my Aztec standby who has had a quarrel with the Governor of his own State Tlaxcala and has gone to finish his studies in the famous old San Nicolas College in Morelia. I saw the lacquer work in detail and made notes & secured pictures. Romualdo seems quite happy there & we took a long walk about town & through the woods. I got from him the data regarding something he has lately found in Tlaxcala that I was after. The next

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

day I went on to Uruapan arriving at night. Spent a day and two nights there. It is one of the beautiful spots of the world. It is a village embowered in perpetual green and flowers. It is famous for its coffee - often called the best in the world - and for its fruit gardens. It is a place of perpetual springtime, of lovely dashing brooks of clearest water and of picturesque rustic bridges. I was there several days in 1897, before the railroad got through. My errand this time was to get some further data and specimens of the language which here still Indian in character. I think I gave Lucy some plaques of this work that I got on my earlier visit. "The longest way around is the shortest way home" and I came back from Uruapan via Acambaro, Empalme Gonzales, &c., two sides of a triangle, and was only 24 hours on the road, while to have come direct would have taken 36. Reached here Sunday am. at 6.30. Have been here two days

and now expect to leave tonight for Guadala-
-jara-Zapotlan - Mt. Colima. I shall be gone
about a week. Mr. Spencer goes with me at
least as far as Guadalajara. There is no more
news and I must do much today before leav-
ing, so I will say good bye - with love to
you both,

Frederick Starr.

were at Zapotlan
at 3:30 pm. left
here this a.m.
I am put in -
11:15 am. shall

The University of Chicago
not returning
this week with
Love to both
Fredrick
Starr

Guadalajara, Oct. 30. 1904.

My dear Mother,

Mr. Spencer and I are just in from a little trip we made down into the Zapotlan district and I write because I wish to send your check, which I ^{know} fear will be late anyway. But I could not safely date it earlier than the 4th anyway, so I hope you will receive it soon enough. I last wrote you on Tuesday that night Mr. Spencer and I left for this trip. Starting from the City on the 6 p.m. train, taking sleepers, we reached here on Wednesday afternoon. You may remember it is a favorite town of mine and a place where I have a number of "hangers on" bequeathed to me by the Baptist mission conducted by Mr. Wilson who is now of Cuba. One of my retainers, Fe-

Liberto Valdivia was on the train to meet
us & help us to the Hotel. After dinner Mrs.
and I went to the Agua Azul, where we took
a swim for cleansing and refreshment. Felicitas
& I then called at Mr. Howland's school,
which is just closing, where I settled for the
boys' books for the past year and arranged
for some matters of the coming school year.
We then went to call on Father Areola (Jesus)
at the new Seminario, where he teaches. He
was glad to see us, showed us the beautiful
new building they now occupy, its library,
the Meteorological and Astronomical Obser-
vatories (under his charge) &c. and gave
me the directions I needed regarding my
trip to Zapotlan. We then called on a Eng-
lish Rivera to get some data regarding "ruins"
on the slopes of the volcano of Colima. Last-
ly we went around to the Templo Bautista
where we found my old plaster worker, Ramon
Gonier, & the local missionary native, Victor
Gonier (R's brother), who were both more

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

than glad to see me. We had Feliberto to supper and at 7.30 Mr. D., and we, went to the Velada literaria at the school (Commencement exercises). Ramon was there and another retainer, Ismail Robles. Ramon went with me to the Hotel, by appointment, afterward and we talked until after midnight over things of the year, which has been a stormy & bad one for him. As breakfast, by invitation, I had his two brothers Victor & Pablo. These appointments were intentionally separate, as there has been a good deal of family difficulty during the year and I thought best not to run a chance of marring the partial amnesty that has been patched up. I got a lot of interesting intichcraft & shabdomancy from them all and shall have to be here several days to gain all there is in them.

At 9 am. Padre Arcola called to give final advice. At 10 o'clock. Feliberto & Ismail appeared and piloted me to the baratillo, or thieves market, where I got onto the track of a lot of most interesting matter in the line of silicios and other forms of self-torture. Our train left at 12.20 and we reached Zapattan at 4.45, banded for the Nevado de Colima. Padre Arcola had telegraphed his brother of our coming and he had arranged for guides and mules to the mountains. It was a most beautiful trip. We left at 6.30 a.m. & rode six hours on mule into the crater of the old volcano - the Nevado. At 2 pm we rode up to the higher brim of the old crater, a height of more than 14000 ft. from which we could look out upon the beautiful present active volcano, close by. ^{Plazas} Smoke & vapors were pouring out, not only from the crater proper but many little vents on the flanks. It was a beautiful sight. We spent the night in Nevado's crater in a hut, with our guides & four ^{Indian} ~~Indians~~. It was cold: white frost & ice in the a.m. here.

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

Zacualco, Nov. 8th 1904.

My dear Mother,

Today - a day of excitement and interest in the U.S., - I am at a quiet queer little country town, with two things in progress - archeology and witchcraft. In the latter line I have struck by accident into a nest of strange and uncanny matter of which certainly sane and sensible people outside of here could hardly dream. It will make good stuff for writing and I shall secure the material to illustrate and prove anything I may write. I left Mexico as earlier letters will have told you on Oct. 25, expecting to be in this region for about five or six days. Today makes two weeks that I have been away from the centre and I cannot reach Mexico before Saturday am. according to my

present plans. A week ago today I started out with Pablo Godinez for what we planned to be a round trip including the following places - Guadalajara, Etzalan, Amualulco, Ameca, San Martin, Camacapa, Cocula, Zacualco, San Marcos, Guad^a. This would be rail to Ameca, horse to Zacualco, rail to Guad^a. But we have departed from the plan somewhat. Ameca was of no consequence except as a point from which to take horses. We really went on Tuesday last by rail to Barcena, and then on foot to the Hacienda of Guadalupe and back to Etzalan. We had no luck except at the latter place, where I was presented a fine great pretty pyre, well worth all the time & trouble. The next day to Amualulco where we lost a full day getting nothing of the least value. Thence to Ameca was our plan but finding we would have to stay ~~at~~ La Vega seven hours waiting for a train, so we went directly to Guadalajara where two hours of waiting could be usefully employed & came down here in the afternoon

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

by Fran. We found quite a harvest of little things here and were fairly content. Saturday we went on horse to San Marcos, where there are absolutely no antiquities but where we established relations with a woman witch & on our return here with her male companion. Money however had given out and, after starting Pablo off to Coahuila at 3³⁰ a.m. I went up to Guadalupe to spend Sunday and replenish financially. I found Ramon Gornes all anxiety to go into the witch business. He had seen a member of the fraternity from here, who is his old acquaintance. So he came down with me yesterday afternoon. Last night he attended his first secret session with them in their mountain cave & came in this morning at 4 o'clock to make a highly interesting and startling report. It is certainly a strange thing in this XX century! He and his friend started out

this afternoon for a trip to Zapotlan, where
there will be a reunion tonight of the local
fraternity & from there they go tomorrow on
horse to Colima, where there will be another
reunion probably on Friday night. They
will be back here next Monday for another
session here, after which he will spend a
week under instruction and then make a
final trip to a headquarters nearby. He will
see some chance of getting into the hands of
the law because witchcraft is illegal, but if he
does I will have to get him out. meantime
he is likely to secure a collection of objects &
data that will greatly surprise all students.
I have only half realized myself, after all
my years of contact with these people, to what
degree this is carried. I supposed it was iso-
lated, individual: instead of that it is fully organ-
ized and now badly developed. I have fallen into
it through a curious discovery which the
three brothers - Victor (who is a Baptist preacher),
Pablo & Ramon - made of a little figure used
in witchcraft. This is now mine, ^{with some} ~~from the collection~~ of a collection

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

City of Mexico, Nov. 16. 1904.

My dear Mother,

I have not much to say this time. Have been "on the go". Was at Jacuaco two days longer after writing you and came away with quite a box of archeological stuff, which I packed up and shipped from Guadalajara on Thursday. Left there on Friday coming directly here arriving on Saturday am.

Mr. Spencer and I spent the bulk of Sunday together. We went to Padre Clarin's house to see some books; also to Cortiz's storeroom to see some others; to call on Bates, who was here to see me in the am; and to Mrs. Nuttall's "at home" in the afternoon out at Coyacan. It was my first visit since her return from St. Louis, where she was one of the Jurors. This reminds me that I have the official action of the Juris now. They vote me a "gran prix" for the Amie group, a gold

medal for my exhibit and a special certificate
of commemoration for my classwork - this going to
the University. On Monday I was busy with letters
re. and in the evening went to dinner at Mrs.
Chittalls, "to know better" the young man who is
to marry Miss C. He seems a nice young
fellow (29) with a fairly intelligent interest
in the things that interest Mrs. C. and with
a good position in connection with Oaxaca mines.
A Mr. Smith (mine super) and a Mr. Johnson,
(Architect) both friends of his, were the other
guests. The young men are two Britishers & one
Canadian.

Yesterday I went out to Pacheco
returning at night. No particular object
or end gained. Just for fun, I enclose your
last envelope. There was no time lost in receipt
by the address, but I had to go to the ^{post} office for
it & unless I had noticed its advertisement I
might never have received it. Sorry the birthday
celebration did not take place on the 2^d. Wish her
a happy New Year from her brother. Am afraid,
from the newspaper reports, that you are having
wintry weather. Glad that Miss Ellis is improving.
With love to you both - Frederick Starr

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

City of Mexico, Nov. 12. 1904.

My dear Mother,

This is my date but I am pretty late in the day as I have been away all day & have but just got back and when I finish this I shall go to bed. I have made two trips during this week. Wednesday night I left here and went up to Lago. It is about a twelve hours ride. I left here at 6 p.m. & was there at 5.30 a.m. My errand there was to call upon an old man, Father Rivera, whose picture, &c. you can see in my little book on Mexican authors. He is 80 yrs. 8 mos. old and suffers from rheumatism to the degree that he does not go outdoors at all. He was still in bed when I called as it is his custom to wake at 6. Take breakfast, & then, dropped up in bed, to

write at his books until 10 am. when he
rises and dresses. He was extremely de-
lighted to see me and I am glad indeed to
have met him. We talked for nearly three
hours, when I went for an hour's walk &
then returning received from him as a
gift all that he has written with the ex-
ception of four works which are entirely
exhausted. This was my first stop at Legos.
Taking the train at 3.²⁵ pm. I reached
Queretaro at 9.³⁵ Here again was my first
stop tho I have passed through the famous
old city dozens of times. I put in a busy
day there Friday. Went out to the Puéblito
two leagues away by train to see the famous
miraculous figure of the Virgin that is
there venerated. Also went out to the
Hall of the Bells and saw where Maximilian
with Miramon and Mejia were shot, and
the little chapel recently erected on the
spot by the Austrians. I also visited
the Church of Santa Rosa, work of the great

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

Mexican architect Tzucruerras of whom you may read in my "Authors". The church is really fine and the gilded carved wood within is remarkable. Walked all over town, called on the M.B. native pastor who is an old acquaintance & went with him to see a curio & book dealer. So you see I was busy. Left at 9:35 reaching here at 6:30 a.m. Saturday. My other trip was today: motive archaeological. Leaving at 6:30 this morning on the National Ry. I reached Palmitas station at 10:15. Then took a lonely walk across country, a rare walk, to Calixtlahuaca a pretty little town purely Indian, at the foot of a fine hill. Was too late for the fine things I was in search of, but got a good copper ring, a little copper pendent, and two good beads of quartz crystal. The things I was after were gold! but they had been sold some

weeks ago. What I got is not bad, but I would
have been satisfied had I got more for the
walk & the purely Indian village were fine.
I had my last letter from you on Nov. 6. —
written the 10th. You speak of your first
snow — we have had here the worst weather
on record. It has rained, been cloudy and cold,
and as disagreeable as can be. Of course
there ought to have been no rain here
at all after Oct. 15. I am glad you
are satisfied with election. I am not. It
is the second time that the Roman church
has decided a Presidential contest and I
have been too much in Catholic lands to
see the growth of that crafty power at home.
Yes I pay for the "retainers" books & some
other expenses in the school: he deserves
the name. Yes — Louis is in the house.
He gets his room in return for care. Well
I am tired and a little discouraged. I have
filled the paper anyway. So, good night.
With love, Frederick Starr.

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

City of Mexico, Nov. 30. 1904.

My dear Mother,

On reaching here this morning from Puebla I found your letter of Nov. 17. You all the time speak of my near return to Chicago! I have no idea of returning until about Jan. 1. I plan now to leave here on Christmas Eve. or Christmas Day and to reach home the 29. or 30. of Dec. I have at no time thought of an earlier return and am sure I cannot see how you got any such idea. I am glad you feel somewhat ready for winter. We have had such a season here as I have never before experienced. As I write now it rains and has been raining all day. Rains usually have completely stopped by Nov. 1. I found a letter here from Mr. Inagaki. The Aims were much better than when he before wrote. At that time two or three of them were unwell &

Kutorage seemed particularly & apparently, seriously ill. They will probably start for home at the end of this week. Manuel does not return with me, though I do not see why you should object if he did. I shall be rather lonely there and, personally, I feel much safer with someone with me.

The past week has been rather uninteresting. Last Wednesday I spent here getting ready for a trip. Left Wednesday night, Mr. Spencer being with me to Puebla, where I arrived at 10 o'clock at night. In the a.m. I saw Manuel, & Lola who is still sick abed, & the mother who is also unwell. Left at 9.30 for Jalapa taking as Leonardo Roldan as Pilot to accompany me on my remaining trip. We reached Jalapa at 4.45 p.m.

Next day we hunted up Señor Sandoval of the Geographical Commission, whom I had met at Buffalo and who invited me to dine with him at 1 o'clock. Whether because he thought I would relish an American meal or because he hankered after one, we ate at the Railroad Restaurant, after which he

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

Took me to see an old lady - excuse me, she is only seventy-seven - who has a collection in archaeology and natural history. She has done all her own collecting & is an interesting person, who has done much for German scientists in the past. Mr. Lindorff accompanied us to the station, whence we left at 4.30 reaching Coatepec at 5 pm. Here we called on Don José Lurios, who has collections & who has been a fellow collector with Don Estefania through the years. He is 83 years old & one of the happiest and most intelligent Mexicans I have ever seen. He is proud of his garden which we visited the next am. We left at 8.30 reaching Xico at 10. Here I had no luck at all after tramping through heavy rain all the afternoon. In the am. we joined Mr. Spencer on the train at 9.35 and went on to Tzucelo, whence we had planned to ride on by horse to Huatusco. The rains have been so heavy that the road was bad & we found we would have to take

as least four days to the trip in place of two, so
we abandoned A. Teobad, both from points of scenery,
runners & archaeology. It being Sunday there was
no train back to Jalapa until late in the afternoon
so we left Leonardo to bring our baggage on the train
& Mr. D. & I started on horseback. At Las Puercas,
riding through the rain, I stopped to hunt some
upstart idols, while Mr. D. rode on to Coatepec to
see old Don Jose Quiros, whom he knows but had
not seen for some years. Leonardo left at 5:15: the
train picked me up at Las Puercas at 6: and we
took Spencer on at 6:30 arriving all together
at Jalapa at 7. At 4:45 a.m. Spencer went on
to Vera Cruz: the boys & I stayed in Jalapa till 11 p.m.
I had Sandoval to dinner at 9 p.m. & he gave me 94
maps of Mexico - different parts. Called pleasantly
on the Governor - Dehesa. He has many new things.
We reached Puente at 2 a.m. Quite a party of us in
the old fort in the morning. Leaving Leonardo, I
took train at 12:10 reaching Puebla at 4:30 p.m.
Packed a box of idols for shipment, saw Manuel
Lota (who is not improved) & boarded sleeper. Went
to bed at 8:30 p.m. Left at 1:15 a.m. arriving here
at 7:15. I enclose check. Love to both. Fredrick Star

Mexico, Dec. 7. 1904.

My dear Mother,

Again a day late. No special news. I was in Mexico Dec. 1. when the President took his oath of office for the seventh time. Left that night for Guadalajara, or. Arrived at Guadalajara on the 2^d and spent a day there at odds & ends: then to Zacatecas for a day: then again a day at Guadalajara. Did not have extreme success! - but it is the last trip out in that district. Got the results of my witchcraft work so far & have started both my men out again on their uncanny pilgrimages. Left Guad. on the 5th with a German-American named Adack & reached here yesterday noon. Here we meet my Asteek man

and go on to Patzcuaro to attend the great
Indian fiesta there. Shall get back to Mexico
on the 10th

In haste, Your loving son,
Frederick Starr,

City of Mexico, Dec. 14, 1904.

My dear Mother,

Your "last letter" again at hand. I shall really not expect to hear from you again until I get home. I do not quite know when that will be. I would have liked to go on the 19th or 20th with Pres. Robinson, who invited me to go up on his private car & take dinner on Xmas. at Topolca. That was impossible. I have all the time planned the 24th. It is just possible however that I may be yet further delayed. and today I have no idea when I shall leave. am a day late. Shall not try to do more than jot down the happenings without amplification as I am sadly busy and behind. — Left Guadalajara the 5th taking a photographer with me. Reached Leonia where Remualdo Duechal (Aztic) met us & stayed there until the next day. On the 7th we went to Patzcuaro where the great Indian festival & feria were in progress. We were there all day of the 8th which is the great day. & very interesting but

The dances which were the chief reason for
our long journey were not allowed to take
place. Learning the morning of the 9th, the
photographer staying for his own affairs,
Romualdo & I came here arriving the
morning of the 10th. Called on Mrs. Nuttall
in the evening & found the wedding day
for Miss C. & L. for today. On the 11th took
morning train for Toluca for final visit
to Dr. Burrell. Took dinner with him, his
brother, & a Mr. McWattie from El Oro. McW.
was on his way to the City & we came back
together on the afternoon train & went
to the Opera in the eve. On the 12th
I went to Guadalupe for the festival
in the eve. dined with Mr. McW. & three
of his friends. Then to the Opera again.
Yesterday noon dined with an Rubber Co
party - on their way to the Plantation - Mr.
Hardy, Mr. Saphris, Mrs. S., Mr. Howell
& Mrs. H. The ladies stay here, while the
gentlemen go to the Plantation. Evening
dinner with Mr. Hardy & at 10 o'clock with
Senor Baties. Very gay! but morning
in between times! With love. Fredrick S.

City of Mexico, Dec. 20. 1904.

My dear Mother,

This is my regular day and it is also my day of departure. Probably by the time you receive this letter I shall again be in Chicago. I shall be glad to be home as this trip has been one series of catastrophes. Such a run of hard luck I have never had in my life.

Wednesday last I went to the wedding at Mrs. Nuttalls'. It was a very pretty & elegant affair: there were forty guests mostly members of the Diplomatic Corps here. We were taken to Coyocacan in a special car at 3 p.m. and brought back at 6.40.

Thursday noon I dined with Hardy, Duplissis, Howell & Mrs. Howell at the Bazar. The dinner was an eye opener to the three ladies who of course always think of Mexico as a backward place. The dinner took so well that on Saturday it was repeated - with me also in attendance - at Duplissis' invitation with Mrs. Duplissis added to the party. I suppose the three gentlemen left for the Plantation yesterday. I wish I had time to go with them. Thursday night I left for Puebla arriving at 1 a.m. Manuel joined me and we spent the day in Tlaxcala pleasantly and made all arrangements for him to come up with me on

train leaving at midnight. He planned to stay here & try to get some work here. He was very happy as was I, but, through some advice I gave him, he got into trouble & was locked up at eleven p.m. He was not to blame & did nothing but no one can say when we can get him out, if at all. It is a long story of serious injustice, I could not stay and I could not do anything. I have ordered a lawyer to be secured and to do all possible, but feel profoundly depressed. I was in Mexico through Saturday and left Saturday night for Jalapa & Oco, at which latter place I secured my long-labored-for Aztec ms. Took night train back arriving yesterday morning. Yesterday was spent in packing & other preparations for home-going. Still have much to do. I leave tonight with President Robinson in his private car.

If you still have your "fund" where you can get at it, please send me \$75.- for four months. I was hard up before but shall have to do all possible for the boy. - With love to you both & best wishes for a merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Your son, Frederick Starr.