

MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM MEXICO.

Chulchupa, Chihuahua, Mexico,
May 31, 1898.

In a former communication from this place I stated that a prospector camping near here, who went out hunting on May 10th, had been lost and not found at the date of writing. The men of this place—all who could get a horse to ride—hunted for the man day after day and finally found his trail where he had killed a skunk and eaten it, and afterwards found his burro (donkey) and bedding. But it was not until the 18th of May that he was brought into this place, in a pitiable condition. He was found by some Mexican cattle herders, nearly demented, and could not have lived, probably, more than a day longer. When he was asked why he did get on his burro and let him find his way home he answered that he "did so twice and the brute went exactly in the wrong direction." The brute was right, as such animals almost always are in such cases, and he was wrong. He was very grateful to the people for hunting for him, saying he did not think the Mormons would take the trouble to hunt for a man not of their faith, and a stranger also. He was told that Mormonism requires us to do good to all, irrespective of nationality, color or religion.

On account of the isolation of Chulchupa, situated thirty-five or forty miles from Garcia, it was thought best to build a substantial house to which the women and children might gather in case of alarm, and surround it with a high palisade of house logs set upon end close together, enclosing space enough to contain also teams, wagons, and other movable property. It was decided to build of brick a building 27x40 feet, and John W. Header, Henry A. Martineau and David Johnson were appointed a building committee to erect it. The stakes have been set for the foundation, and the moulding of bricks has already begun, in the hope that the kiln may be burned before the rainy season begins. The rains usually begin about the first of July and continue three months, a shower occurring as a rule every afternoon. As soon as the rain comes, vegetation grows with great rapidity. While some object to so much rain, it may be said that it does not require one-tenth so much expense to prepare for the rainy season as it does in Utah to prepare for winter. No big haystacks or wood piles are needed, nor so much winter clothing.

I send the following elevations as computed from many observations of a very fine surveying aneroid barometer 5 inches in diameter, in perfect condition, which I tested and compared with the barometer in the U. S. weather station in the University of Arizona:

Colonla Juarez (average of over 300 observations) altitude.....	5236
Head of San Diego canyon, on road into the mountains.....	8525
Bottom end of Strawberry valley.....	6882
Coralles, near Colonia Pacheco, and about same level.....	6429
Garcia.....	7494
Divide between Garcia and Meadow Valley.....	8359
Meadow Valley.....	8094
Top of Continental Divide of waters flowing east and west.....	8262
Mound Valley.....	8166
Summit between Mound Valley and Chulchupa.....	8442
Latitude of Chulchupa, 29d., 23m., 30s	
N. Longitude about 109d. W. of Greenwich.	

Between Chulchupa and Garcia are

many thousand acres of rich farm land with abundant pine, capable of sustaining several thousand settlers; and on the west, north and east of Chulchupa are large tracts of land very desirable for settlement, but which must first be bought.

I have devoted considerable space to Chulchupa conditions in order to give a general answer to letters often received inquiring about Mexico and its capabilities, especially that part colonized by the Mormons. People in the North who have no homes of their own, who have the grit and energy necessary to pioneer life, and are willing for a few years to put up with the labors attending the founding of all new colonies, might find it to their advantage to look at this country, and if it should please them, help build up and grow up with it.

It is a time of general good health here, and the people all seem to be prospering, and feel that they have been greatly blessed in their labors.

Fruit will be abundant, such as apples, pears, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums, grapes, blackberries, strawberries, with some few cherries and almonds. Bishop J. C. Bentley's new fruit cannery is in full operation, with probability of putting up many thousands more cans of fruit than last year's large output. A telephone line is in course of construction from here to Dublan R. R. station, about 16 miles, and considerable private improvements going on. Mr. Joseph Jackson's wood working factory is almost ready to begin work. The building is 40 by 80 feet, three stories high, and full of wood working machinery, and the enterprise will be of much benefit to our colonies.

J. H. MARTINEAU.

PARK CITY DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Park City, Utah's proud and prosperous mining camp, has practically been wiped out of existence, being visited Sunday by the most disastrous conflagration in the history of Utah. It may be that the city will be rebuilt, and rise again from the ruins that now covers the canyon where it once stood, but it will be years before it can fully recover—if recovery is at all possible under the circumstances—from the terrible visitation. The loss, it is conservatively estimated, will aggregate more than a million dollars. The actual insurance will not reach much more than a tenth of that amount. Insurance companies, have long been chary about writing heavy policies there, on account of the financial stress that has come upon the camp. Some have persistently refused to accept any risks there at all, among them being H. J. Grant & Co. of this city.

Not less than five hundred persons are homeless and destitute. They must have assistance at once, otherwise they will suffer greatly. The distressing plight in which so many are placed is the result of a fire that had a very small beginning, but which cut a very wide swath as it went forth by leaps and bounds on its mission of destruction. The fire originated in the Freeman or American House about 4 o'clock yesterday morning. The announcement of its discovery was made by an excited Chinaman. A general alarm was sounded from the Marsac mill. But before there could be any effective response, the hotel was completely enveloped and doomed to swift and certain destruction, as were all contiguous buildings. There was no time for the removal of goods from stores, money from places of deposit, books and papers

from shelves or safes, horses from barns—scarcely time to save human beings from being cremated alive. Everything was licked by the flames as they swept up and down the canyon, which now resembled a great fiery furnace which illuminated the heavens in all directions.

It is impossible to go into detailed description of the consuming conflagration. It spread so rapidly through the business district into the residence portion of the city as to make all efforts to extinguish it futile. There was only one thing to do and that was to resort to dynamite in blowing up houses in order to cut off the material upon which the flames were feeding. This was done to a good effect, however.

Appeals for help from the fire department of Salt Lake, Ogden and Coalville were made and responded to with a will, each department sending all the men and equipment that could be spared. They were conveyed on a special train from their respective cities to the scene of disaster as speedily as possible. The Salt Lake department reached there at 9:30 and the Ogden soon afterwards. All worked with a will, but the fire fiend was master and continued devouring its work as long as there was anything to devour.

Mr. George W. Heintz of the Rio Grande Western passenger department went to Park City this morning and telephoned to Mr. Wadleigh at noon that while the whole business part of the city had been destroyed there would be a good deal of building under way in short order. There was, so far as he was able to see, no suffering that the people of Park City did not feel able to cope with themselves. He thinks there will be no call for public help.

Allof the losses have not yet been figured out, nor will they be for some days yet. The main ones, however, are as follows, aggregating \$570,000:

Thompson & Jorgenson, butcher shop.....	1,000
Building owned by Henry Newell.....	1,000
Ketchum & Fung, barbers.....	500
American hotel (Freeman's).....	3,000
Building owned by the Harrington sisters.....	1,000
Tim O'Keefe, cigar factory.....	500
V. J. Bosler, dwelling.....	500
Judge, Ivers & Keith building, horses and wagons.....	10,000
Bates & Kimball, druggists.....	3,000
Center saloon (Mantor building).....	2,000
Park Opera House.....	8,000
I. O. O. F. lodges.....	1,000
Shields Bros., merchants.....	25,000
Grand Opera House.....	40,000
A. O. U. W., Masonic, K. of P. Hibernian lodges.....	3,000
F. A. McCarty, jeweler.....	3,000
J. M. Lockhart, Dr. Viko and F. J. McLaughlin.....	3,000
Thomas Himlin, store.....	3,000
Pat Fitzpatrick, saloon.....	500
Building owned by W. Mont Ferry.....	2,500
Riley & Towey, saloon.....	3,000
Huddy's bakery.....	2,000
C. M. Wilson, physician.....	1,000
Corner house.....	5,000
Park Record.....	5,000
Adams, photographer.....	3,000
Hurlhut, drug store.....	6,000
Building owned by Thomas Capt.....	2,000
Woodruff Bros., stationers.....	1,250
Building owned by W. J. Wilson.....	1,250
Postoffice.....	1,000
H. S. Townsend.....	1,000
Postoffice building.....	3,000
Berryman & Rogers.....	14,000
Building of Margaret Rogers.....	7,000
First National bank and building.....	20,000
Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Co.....	5,000
Frank Andrews, furniture.....	7,000
W. S. Sharp, drug store.....	5,000
Breen & Sullivan, saloon.....	2,000
P. McPherson, merchandise.....	20,000