

AMONG AZTEC RUINS
How This Once Powerful Race
Has Descended to Weak-
ness and Poverty.
THEIR CITIES DESCRIBED.

Judge Ewing Says the Heat Causes
an Increase in Crime.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY'S WORK.

OTHER INTERESTING INTERVIEWS

While engaged with the Government
Geological Survey in 1881-1884 as topographical
engineer, G. Willis Morse, at
present with the Schlosser House, visited
and explored several of the Aztec ruins in
Arizona. Yesterday he gave a DISPATCH
man an interesting description of the decay-
ing monuments of the most intelligent
American Indians who ever peopled the
New World.

"One would never think the dirty, grovel-
ing beggars," he said, "who now lay claim
to Aztec ancestry are the representatives of
such a powerful, intelligent people that
their ruins present a more imposing and
impressive spectacle than the lastest
'squaw Indian' of the Comanche tribe.
His thrift has departed with his forefathers
as has his bravery and every other creditable
attribute.

"We were encamped in Salina Canon, in
Southeastern Utah, in the spring of 1882.
Our guide was a Navajo Indian, whose
name was 'Specky.' He was a bright sort
of fellow for an Indian, and was well
posted on the traditions and history of the
mountainous country. He informed us that
an Aztec ruin was only 185 miles away,
and for curiosity we decided to make the
trip. Our route lay through a rocky, hilly
country, and it was three days and a half
before we arrived at a Ute encampment
called Manoa. We spent the night with a
ranchman named Reulax, and upon awak-
ening started for the ruins, a short distance
farther on.

"From a distance they strongly reminded
one of the Egyptian pyramids, as they had
a conical aspect, but closer inspection re-
vealed an immense four-story building of
gray sandstone, surrounded by crumbling
walls that in unbroken places were 80 feet
high. The walls were 450 feet in length
and the building was 265 feet in width.
The first story was of solid though pro-
vincial masonry, and was built to with-
stand attacks by means of battering
rams. The natives were an inhospitable
sort of people in times of
battle and protected themselves by entering
their habitations by means of ladders, which
were drawn up as soon as one of their num-
bers was safe within. The second floor was
divided into apartments ranging in
dimensions from small narrow cells to a
room to much larger ones wherein families
could be comfortably ensconced. In the
center of the building was one immense
chamber, the floor of which was raised
in length. This was their council chamber,
and the line where the benches once stood
surrounded the entire inclosure. In the
center of the pit was found a great deep
well by eight feet long and five feet wide.
The sides of this were smoke begrimed, and
one of our party discovered, charred remains
of food that told conclusively that the
bygone period civilized fires had been
burned there. At one end of the room was a
rough stage similar to those in use at the
present time, and upon the platform
to which they led the priests and rulers
once held sway.

"In ancient days fire was kept continually
burning on top of the masonry, and the
superstition being that the death of the
fire was a forerunner of the decadence
of the Aztec race. In the year 1824 the last
Aztec priest died, and the fire in all
temples was allowed to die out, and to-
day their fire traditions and they are
near their end.

"While the ruins of Aztec temples are to
be found in various parts of Mexico, Ariz-
ona, New Mexico and Southern Colorado,
they are generally similar to each other
in style of architecture, but few exceptions
remain in Arizona, which are built in the
style of the old Coliseum of Rome, only be-
ing square instead of oval. The total
number of these ruins in the United
States are estimated to be about 65.
The largest is located in Southeastern Ariz-
ona and contains about 900 rooms, and was
probably inhabited by 10,000 or 20,000
people. This is the most famous ruin of that
part of America. Their old temples in
Mexico were adorned with massive gold
and silver statuary, which was taken to
Spain by the Spanish soldiers and by Jes-
uit priests. The Aztecs held their way
in South America until the year
1571, when their power passed away
to Mexico in 1571.
Their ruins are very numerous in Peru
and Bolivia, more so than in Old Mexico, and
are on a much larger scale, those of the city
of Cuzco and Tiahuanaco, for example.

"After spending two days in viewing the
ruins we started on another long ride to
the southwest to visit Walmuaba, another
ruined city. It is about one-half the size of
Manoa, but built in a much finer style and
with much more care and finish. This temple
had about 140 rooms in it and was five
stories high. The natives told us that it
came from out of a large cliff which formed
a part of the pueblo. By this they were
secured against a water famine in case of a
drought by hostile Indians. We found a band
of about 25 Aztecs in and about the ruins,
living in the most abject poverty and after
satisfying our curiosity we turned our
horses homeward.

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SOME OTHER CONSOLIDATIONS OF NOTE

There Was Competition There.

THE GREAT IN THE LINE.

TWO MORE COME IN.

HE VOTED THE MOST POPULAR
LEADER IN THE COUNTY.

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THE HEAT RESPONSIBLE
Judge Ewing Talks of the Growth of Crime

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Via R. & O. R. on Thursday, August 11.

TESTIMONIAL OF EDITOR CHAS. F. BONS, RICE
LAKE, WIS.