

# New York Capitalists to Restore Yucatan to Its Ancient Place as the World's Garden Spot.

**N**EW YORK capitalists are about to attempt one of the most extraordinary operations that has ever been contemplated by man. They intend to try to restore in Yucatan a civilization dead these hundreds of years, to repopulate the streets of its forgotten cities, to revive the past glories of a once famous country, to refresh its desert wastes with the water which once made a green and a goodly land

lend their names to schemes of doubtful outcome. The ancient ruins of Yucatan and their meaning have really been the main reason for the interest in the country taken by the New York capitalists. It is perfectly evident that Yucatan at one time supported a very large population; that the country was well watered and that the practice of agriculture had attained a high standard. To-day Yucatan is very nearly a

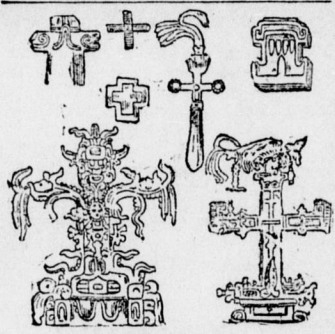


RUINS OF GOVERNOR'S PALACE AT CHICHEN-ITZA

of that which is now but a wilderness of sand and desolation, and to again set flowing the tide of life and commerce which once profited by the natural resources of this old-world land. In its conception the project is as daring as if an attempt were made to restore the life of ancient Egypt and people again the palaces of the Pharaohs.

The country upon which this remarkable experiment will be made lies at the southeastern extremity of Mexico. It has been characterized by travelers as the hottest place on earth—Death Valley only excepted—but scientists, who trust to thermometers rather than to the perspiratory remembrances of explorers, say that the climate of Yucatan has been defamed. They say that the average highest temperature is only ninety-eight degrees, while very often the mercury registers as little as seventy-five degrees. Yucatan lies twenty degrees of longitude intersecting the country.

Yucatan, like Egypt, is a country of magnificent tradition. That it was once a country of great wealth and of

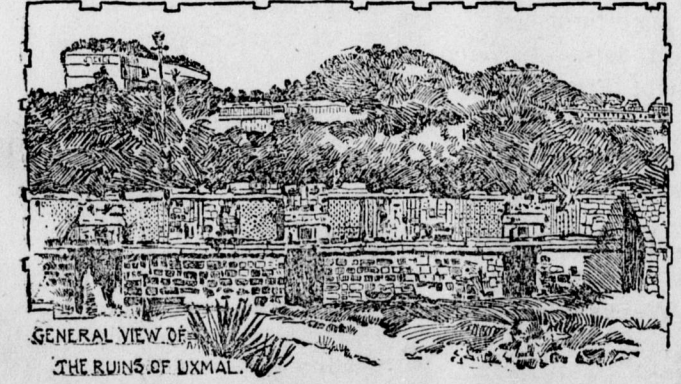


TOLTEC CROSSES.

a high degree of civilization is thoroughly established, yet although it was once a region rich in agricultural products, it is to-day almost a forgotten corner of the earth, badly watered, little cultivated and maintaining a place in the affairs of mankind only because its forest are rich in mahogany, rosewood, logwood and other valuable timber. Having an area of 28,178 square miles and a population of 275,500—mostly Maya Indians—the country possesses only twenty-five miles of railroad line. This railroad connects the capital, Merida, with its port of Progreso, on the northwest coast.

According to the official returns there are altogether in Yucatan seven cities, thirteen towns, sixty-two ruined cities, 143 villages, fifteen abandoned settlements and 333 haciendas. Scarcely any of these places have as many as 10,000 inhabitants, the population of the great majority falling below 1000.

This is the sort of country which New



GENERAL VIEW OF THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

York capitalists confidently expect—by the help of American enterprise as much as by the power of money—to convert into a land of prosperity. There is a certain element of speculation about the undertaking, but the men who have entered into the project are emphatically not of the class who

waterless desert, and yet it seems certain that neither the climate nor the topography of the country has changed materially since the days of the ancient civilization. It is for this reason that some account of the known history of the former civilization and ruins of Yucatan becomes interesting and pertinent at this point.

Of the sixty-two ruined cities of Yucatan proper the most important, or at least the best known and most fully described are those of Izamal, Mayapan, Ake, Acanceh, Uxmal, Tikul and Kabah, all centered in the northwest corner of the peninsula round about Merida, the capital, which itself stands upon the ruins of Tihuc; Chichen-Itza, about midway between

together unrivaled for the magnitude of its buildings, the richness of its sculptured facades and the almost classic beauty of its statuary. Its most conspicuous edifice bears the name of the Nunery, though there is slight evidence that nuns ever inhabited the building. There is also a beautiful building known as the Governor's Palace, which possesses a wonderful frieze, 325 feet long, decorated with a row of colossal heads in high relief, divided into panels, and filled alternately with panels of heads and panels of designs resembling arabesques. One of the strangest and most significant monuments in Yucatan is found at Ake, ten miles east of Merida, where there is a huge pyramid, with an immense flight of steps, presenting features different from anything elsewhere discovered in Yucatan. This strange monument is surmounted by thirty-six pillars, each four feet square and from fourteen to sixteen feet high. At Izamal, a few miles east of Ake, there is another great pyramid, with a base 650 feet square. Near it are three other pyramids and a colossal head, thirteen feet high, which bears a strong resemblance to the Sphinx, as far as style is concerned. Unlike that great monolith, however, the Izamal Sphinx is built up of rough stones which have been covered with mortar.

The interesting feature of all these ruins, from the modern and utilitarian point of view, is the proof they afford that at some time, not very remote, the country of Yucatan was almost as crowded with people as modern China.

Wonder has been expressed that such a bleak, arid and almost streamless land should have ever become the seat of empire and the home of a flourishing civilization, but from a geographical standpoint the absence of rivers on the Yucatan plateau appears to be due not so much to a deficient rainfall as to the extremely porous nature of the ground, which absorbs water like a sponge, and thereby prevents the development of surface streams.

It is to this problem that modern methods will be applied, although, in their very application, they will have been copied from those of the ancients. Yucatan is not a dry and waterless land at all, only, like many another country, it will only yield its treasures to those who will work for them. Beneath the surface of Yucatan the waters accumulate in such abundance that a sufficient supply may always be had by any one who will take the trouble to sink a well. The water is so thoroughly distributed, indeed, that any part of the tableland may be successfully tapped for water.

In that fact lies the secret of the old time prosperity of Yucatan and its present day desolation.—Brooklyn Eagle.

**Beekeeper With a Sense of Humor.** Some years ago I followed a party of tourists around the tower, and heard one of the "beekeepers" who garrison that venerable fortress narrate the history of the various trophies. He was a man of humor and indulged in frequent jokes, and as he came to a long row of dismantled cannon he winked at me and remarked:

"These 'ere cannon was hall captured from the Yankees."

"When?" I asked.

"In various wars," he responded boldly.

"Then why do you label them as having been captured from the Turks, the Russians and other nations?"

"To spare yer honor's feelings, sir," he responded politely.

But no cannon or flag or any trophy among the thousands that may be seen in the Tower of London ever belonged to the army or navy of the United States. If there were ever one even of the most insignificant character it would be shown with pride to every American tourist.—W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record-Herald.

The longest-lived people have generally been those who made breakfast the principal meal of the day. The stomach has more vigor in the morning than at any time.

Itza, excel all other American ruins. There is nothing comparable to them on the Mexican tableland. Uxmal, for instance, stands alto-



CARICATURE OF A TOLTEC KNIGHT

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WING OF PALACE RESTORED

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## DR. TALMAGES SERMON

### SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

**Subject: The Folly of Extravagance—Causes of the Great Financial Disturbances Which Take Place Every Few Years—Wasted Wealth.**

(Copyright 1901.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage shows the causes of the great financial disturbances which take place every few years, and arraigns the people who live beyond their means; text, Jeremiah xvii, 11, "As the partridge sitteth on eggs and hatcheth them not, so he that getteth riches and not by right shall leave them in the melting pot: of his days and at his end shall he be fool."

Allusion is here made to a well-known fact in natural history. If a partridge or a quail or a robin brood the eggs of another species, the young will not stay with them, but at the first opportunity will assort with their own species. Those of us who have been brought up in the country have seen the dismay of the farmyard hen, having brooded aquatic fowls, when after twelve days they tumbled into the natural element, the water. So my text suggests that a man may gather under his wings the property of others, but it will after awhile escape; it will leave the man in a sorry predicament and make him feel very wretched.

What has caused all the black days of financial disasters for the last sixty years? Some say it is the credit system. Something back of that. Some say it is the spirit of gambling ever and anon becoming epidemic. Something back of that. Some say it is the sudden shrinkage in the value of securities, which even the most honest and intelligent men could not have foreseen. Something back of that. I will give you the primal cause of all these disturbances. It is the extravagance of modern society which impels a man to spend more money than he can honestly make, and he goes into wild speculation in order to get the means for inordinate display, and sometimes his wife and oftener both. Five thousand dollars income, \$10,000, \$20,000 income is not enough for a man to keep up the style of living he proposes, and therefore he steers his bark toward the mainland. Other men have suddenly melted up \$50,000 or \$100,000—why not he? The present income of the man not being large enough, he must move earth and hell to catch up with his neighbors. Others have a country seat—so must he; others have an extravagant estate—so must he; others have a palatial residence—so must he.

Extravagance is the cause of all the defalcations of the last sixty years, and if you will go through the history of all the great panics and the great financial disasters, you will not find one that is not the story that right back at you will find the story of how many horses the man had, how many residences in the country the man had, how many banquets the man gave, and how many luxuries he indulged in for the last sixty years, either directly or indirectly extravagance the cause.

Now, for the elegances and the refinements and the decorations of life I cast my vote. While I am considering this subject I have in my mind's eye a basket of flowers, white and pink, and a green background of begonia; a cluster of heliotropes, and in some geraniums; sepal and perianth bearing on them the marks of God's finger. When I see that basket of flowers, they persuade me that God loves beauty and adornment and decoration. God might have made the earth so as to supply the gross demands of sense, but left it without adornment or attraction. Instead of the vegetation of the earth, he might have made the earth with an unchanging dull brown. The tree might have put forth its fruit without the prophecy of leaf or blossom. Niagara might have come down in gradual descent without thunder and waterfall.

Look out of your window any morning after there has been a dew and see whether God loves jewels. Put a crystal of snow under a microscope and see what God thinks of architecture. God commanded the priest of old time to have his robe adorned with a wreath of gold and the hem of his garment to be embroidered in pomegranates. The earth sleeps, and God blankets it with the brilliants of the night sky. The world wakes, and God washes it from the burnish of the sun, and the hem of his garment to be embroidered in pomegranates. The earth sleeps, and God blankets it with the brilliants of the night sky. The world wakes, and God washes it from the burnish of the sun, and the hem of his garment to be embroidered in pomegranates.

There are families in all our cities who hardly pay the rent, and who owe all the necessities of life to the mercy of the neighbors. It is to this problem that modern methods will be applied, although, in their very application, they will have been copied from those of the ancients. Yucatan is not a dry and waterless land at all, only, like many another country, it will only yield its treasures to those who will work for them.

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The longest-lived people have generally been those who made breakfast the principal meal of the day. The stomach has more vigor in the morning than at any time.

self to his full height, in a shrill voice he cried out: "Mr. Chairman, I have discovered the philosopher's stone, which turns everything into gold—pay-as-you-go." Society has got to be reconstructed on this subject or the seasons of defalcation will continue to repeat themselves.

You have no right to ride in a carriage for which you are hopelessly in debt to the wheelwright who furnished the landau and to the horse dealer who provided the blooded span, and to the harness maker who provided the gay steeds, and to the liverman who has provided the stabling, and to the driver who, with rosetted hat, sits on the coach box.

## THE GREAT DESTROYER

### SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

**Drunkenness is Not Hereditary—Late Conclusions Reached by a Committee on Inebriety Selected by the London Medical Society.**

The drunkard can no longer lay his inebriety to bibulous ancestors. The man who drinks to excess cannot claim public indulgence on the theory that he inherited a taste for alcoholic stimulants from his parents. A craving for drink, in fact, cannot be transmitted from parents to children.

These are the conclusions of a committee on inebriety selected by the London Medical Society to investigate the relation of heredity to inebriety. The committee was composed of five physicians, two surgeons, a professor of bacteriology, an army surgeon and five general practitioners. After eighteen months of investigation of all phases of drunkenness under all sorts of conditions and environments the committee has made a report which completely upsets many of the favorite notions of temperance reformers and sociologists.

It has been stubbornly contended for a century or more that inebriety is hereditary in many instances, that the tendency to drunkenness is capable of transmission to offspring. It is true, however, that this contention has been always vigorously combated by the highest medical authorities. The report just published declares that there is no evidence in the history of the race that acquired characters of any kind are heritable. The last word of science, as declared by teachers of physiology, biology and botany, is a very definite assertion that no instance of the hereditary transmission of an acquired taste or characteristic has ever been demonstrated either in the animal or the vegetable kingdom.

If a man having no inborn tendency to excess, yet acquire drunken habits, his progeny are no more in danger than are those of his neighbor, says the report. "The whole question of drunkenness is a matter of environment and an innate capacity to enjoy the stimulation that comes from alcoholic indulgence. It is not denied that drunken parents who become thus mentally and physically weak are liable to have children weak in body and feeble in mind. But instances of inebriate fathers who have been found no pleasure in alcoholic indulgence are numerous.

If the conclusions of the society are accepted they relieve the ancestors of drunkards of a heavy responsibility and brush away the only claim which the inebriate appears to have upon public indulgence and sympathy.

**A New Point of View.** Listen to the appeal of the late Dr. John Hall: "Fathers, do without it for the sake of your young sons if for no other reason. How can you tell but that their swift feet may trip to that destruction on this side of which your slower feet have been able to halt? The Christian principle should be made to prevail. Stop drinking for the sake of the weakest and lowliest, and certainly for the sake of those in your own household. Let the young men of your families do as you may think it right for you to do, and what fearful probabilities loom up before you!"

Dr. Nott used to remark how those young men who at college persisted in the use of intoxicating drinks soon sank into obscurity and often into drunkards' graves. It is hazardous, then, to form habits which are so frequently fatal, and it is becoming in all Christian and well disposed people to exercise by their example a commendable, salutary and restraining influence over men generally. These are the principles which make the early temperance reformers so successful. These are the principles which have swept the use of intoxicating drinks out of three-fourths of the prosperous, respectable and intelligent families of America.—Rev. John H. Barrows, D. D., in Christian Work.

**A Brewer's Object Lesson.** A remarkable lesson is taught by the example of the great English brewer, Lord Leighton. Eleven years ago he placed \$1,250,000 in the hands of trustees to build model tenements for the poor in London and Dublin. In the seven large buildings completed for London there are club rooms, reading rooms, music rooms and many heating apparatus, and various shelters for children whose mothers are out at service. But the strangest thing of all is that in these beautiful homes (for such they are, artistic, comfortable and inspiring surroundings) 800 or 900 nonusers of the brewer's beer are housed. Mineral water is on draught, but every form of intoxicants is banned. There are plenty of baths, but no bars.

**A Sham Reform.** As an evidence of the way in which the evil of intemperance seeks to gain popularity, it is said that Lord Grey, who owns a public house at Broomfield, England, has adopted the Goody's plan of principles. He devotes the profits (less ten per cent.) to schemes for the benefit of the inhabitants of the village, and has addressed the magistrates in various divisions of Northumberland urging them to give preference in the case of new licenses to applicants who would adopt that principle. The London Christian comments on this by saying: "It is no use to benefit a community with one hand, if you demoralize it, from little children upward, with the other."

**The Best Way.** A poor woman stood near the magistrate who was hearing the case. "Drunk," she said, "against her husband. He was quickly decided, but somehow the pathetic face of the woman touched the judge, and he said to her: "I am sorry, but I must lock up your husband." She did not seem one who would be of deep thought, but she said with wisdom in her sad and quick reply: "Your Honor, wouldn't it be better for me and the children if you locked up the saloon and let my husband go to work?"—Temperance Cause.

**Necessity of Temperance Hospitals.** The Archbishop of Canterbury, presiding at the annual public meeting of governors of the London Temperance Hospital, said that he considered the hospital to be of great importance to the cause of temperance. It was doing a valuable educational work by proving that alcohol is not necessary as a means for the cure of disease.

**Drunkenness in Scotland.** In the matter of sheer, overmastering drunkenness we stand without rivals in shameful isolation.—Dundee Advertiser.

**The Crusade in Brief.** We are foremost in liquor legislation. While the pulpit resolves, the saloon acts. When people understand what alcohol is, and what it does, they will put it out of existence.—Willard Parker, M. D.

Nearly 500 saloons have gone out of business in Cleveland, Ohio, within the last six months, according to the report of the city treasurer.

The Toledo police judge who has a sympathy for plain drunks agrees with numerous sentimentalists and pseudo scientists when he says that they are the victims of a disease.

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