

A Vanished Race. Lieut. Schwatka explores some ruins in Chihu-hua, Mexico, and thus writes of a day spent among the relics of a people of long ago.

One of the interesting peculiarities of the numerous ruins in Northwest-ern Chihu-hua, that indicates a once dense population living off the soil, is the way in which most of them seem to have met their fate.

When a ruined house is dug into all the skeletons of its occupants are found in what might be termed the com-bined kitchen and dining room—for these two rooms were in one—and always near a fireplace. The pos-tures of these skeletons are as vari-ous as it is possible for the human body to assume.

They are found kneeling, stretched out, sometimes with their locked hands over their heads, on their sides, and again with their children in their arms, no two being alike, at least in the same house or series of houses where they were united into a pueblo.

Now in the whole study of sepulture it has been universally found, even among the lowest savages as well as the most civilized, whatever form of burial they adopt, no matter what may be the absurdity of it from our point of view, that it is always uniform in the main points, allowing, of course, some slight deviations for caste or rank.

The positions of these skeletons in their own houses controvert this theory and have led some to believe that they were de-stroyed there by a great earthquake or other violent action of nature. I had a long talk with Mr. Davis, superintendent of the Corralitos Co., who has made something of a study of these ancient ruins from having them almost forced on him, and he not only believes that they were de-stroyed by a violent earthquake, but that this cataclysm caught them at the evening meal. He infers this latter from a consideration of the customs of the present almost pure-blooded Indian race here, called Mexicians, that must have descended from the old race, but singularly enough know nothing of their an-cient progenitors.

Concentration. Western journalism is up to the times, even in the most trivial mat-ters. The following, which for con-ciseness and brevity would be "hard to take," is from a California paper of a few years ago:

"We once saw a young man gazing at the 'ry heavens, with a + in one hand & a - of pistols in the other. "We endeavored to attract his at-tention by ing 2 a + in our paper respecting a young man living in that part of the country who had left home in a state of mental derange-ment. His + assumed a glassy +, he dropped the pistols and + from his + with the +!

"It is I of whom U read. I left home but my friends knew of my design. I had so the + of a girl who refused to list 2 me, but smiled bly on another. I —ed madly from the house, uttering a wild + to the god of love, & without replying to the ??? of my friends, came here with this + & - of pistols 2 put a 2 my +. My case has no + in this + & if I had my rival here I would pound his I till he would Cess."

To Beat the High Hat. "I have got a plan that beats Col. Hamilton's all hollow," said a dreamy-looking youth, "To har-ness the wild Niagara waves!"

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