A LOOK AT AZTEC RUINS

TAKEN BY AN EASTONIAN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

A Very Hazardous Adventure—Graphic Account of the Great Canyon and the Lofty Mountain Range.

FORT GRANT, A. T.

SOME time since, while my mind was in a state of chaos, I promised the readers of the GAZETTE an article on the Cliff dwellers and the Aztec ruins. I shall now try and redeem the promise so easily made, but so hard to fulfill to one who is not capable of writing on the subject and doing it justice. The abode of the Cliff dwellers needs to be seen to be fully appreciated, for no pen can picture the grand scenery as far as eye can reach, the precipitous cliffs, the dizzy heights that this extinct race sought for their place of abode. Nature seems to have lavished all her rich treasures of scenic effects in this isolated place. I will imagine that my readers are with me when we start from the Fort to visit this interesting spot. We can see in the distance an entrance to a canyon. A distance of 30 miles has to be traversed on horseback before we reach the place, and as nothing of particular interest appears except the unbroken prairie in our trip, we will not linger on the way. Now we are at the mouth of the canyon, and we see a deep cut or gulch that commences at the base of the range and extends at right angles completely through the high range of mountains. A stream of clear, cold water runs with great rapidity through the gulch, the results of heavy rains in summer, of snow in winter. Owing to the great elevation and descent of the water, it comes rushing down like some great cataract, rolling and tumbling the smaller rocks that are in its way, and crfishing against the large stationary ones with a roar like distant thunder.

There are any number of trees and verdure of all kinds. A great amount of wild plums and raspberries and even gooseberries grow here, and as we proceed on up the canyon we also discover that thousands of birds have been drawn here to feast upon the wild fruits. Rattlesnakes are very numerous here, and one has to walk carefully to avoid stepping on one who has failed to give the usual warning of his presence. We discover on our way through that the canyon is scarcely ever wider than thirty-five or forty feet, and in some places it narrows down to fifteen. On each side the walls are perfectly perpendicular, and the farther we traverse our way in this narrow defile the more steep are the walls of our temporary prison. Overhead we can see a small space of sky about 45 or 50 feet wide. All else the eye can see is a mass of solid grey rock, towering in its sublime magnificence to a height of from 300 to 700 feet. As our gaze lingers on this high cliff, we can see plainly a number of dark openings resembling windows in a high tower. They are dotted around like swallow holes in a bank, and we realize, after a moment's surprise, that we are standing and looking upward at one of the cities of this peculiar race. About two-thirds of the way up the cliff the dwellings are situated. A small ledge is carved out in front of every house, presumably for the use of residents in viewing the valley before making the ascent or descent. I say ascent or descent simply because it has not been thoroughly proved whether the mode of egress and ingress was accomplished from the bottom of the canyon or the top of it.

The popular belief is that the cliff dwellers made use of long ladders to ascend from the base below, pulling the ladder up after them to be secure from enemies. This would certainly be a complete security for the residents while in their house, but would be very unsafe when they commenced to descend, as a handful of men supplied with rocks from above could kill a great number when they were exposed upon a long ladder. Besides, why could they not have entered their homes from the summit as well? The only entrance that can be effected at this late day is from the summit and by use of a long, stout rope. The houses are much nearer the summit than the base, and the ascent or descent could have been made easier this way. At the top there is plenty of water, and any amount of land that could be cultivated, while in the canyon is no land at all fit for cultivation, owing to the numerous large rocks. They would have been just as safe from enemies in every respect. A squirrel could not scale the formidable cliffs, and to effect an entrance to these strange dwellings we must depart by the way we came.

After leaving the canyon we start to ascend the range. In some places these hills are so steep that we have to dismount and let our horses toil up as best they can. After some few hours of hard climbing, we are standing over the ledge and looking into the canyon that was left some time ago. How changed everything is! Now we can see the country for miles upon miles instead of the solid grey wall, and the canyon looks about 8 or 10 feet in width at the bottom. Here at this dizzy height we can pick up a small rock and throw it with all our might out into space, expecting to see the rock land safely upon the opposite cliff, and are astonished to see the rock rapidly missing the opposite side on its downward course, and finally fall against the side on which we are standing, 30 or 40 feet from the bottom. Why this is so I do not know, as I am not well versed in the rules of natural science, but it seems impossible that such a strong attraction could exist between the cliff and the rock thrown into space. Nevertheless it does.

Now we will prepare to enter one of the houses. First we undo the long rope from our saddle (brought purposely for the occasion), and tie it securely to a stout tree, then drop the rope over the ledge. Now comes the time when one needs every ounce of courage he possesses. Dropping slowly over the edge with a firm grasp upon the rope, you slide from sight of those above you. What a strange feeling it is when you realize that the least false slip of the hands means death, and you are gradually sliding down farther and farther from your friends. How the perspiration will ooze out upon your forehead when you realize fully that you are depending on your muscles and strong grip alone for your life. Curiosity has been the cause of thousands of tragic deaths and will continue to be till the end of time, but I have scarcely ever known anyone to attempt this twice. The ones who have seen it are always willing to tell you what they have seen, but they never attempt it themselves. Still, the great majority claim they were not the least scared.

After going what appears to be a mile or so, your feet touch the ledge in front of one of the dwellings. After getting a secure footing, you release your hold on the rope and enter. After all, the sight is not worth the danger. Only a few bare rooms cut out in a rough way, not an article that can be procured as a relic. Everything has been thoroughly searched years before, and all articles found were carried away long ago. After looking about for some time, you decide to ascend to terra firma. Your first act is to tie the rope securely around the body and then give the signal for your friends to pull, and you are soon beside them, while you inwardly swear that you will never risk it again, but answer to your friends' questions that you didn't mind it in the least and wouldn't object to going down every day for a month. This letter is so much longer than I supposed it would be that I will delay my description of the mound dwellers for another letter.

Respectfully, A. M. ROBINSON.

NIAGARA FALLS.

$10 Excursions via Pennsylvania Railroad

The last two ten-day excursions of the present season to Niagara Falls via the Pennsylvania Railroad will leave Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington on September 4 and 16. An experienced tourist agent and chaperon accompany each excursion.

Excursion tickets, good for return passage on any regular train, exclusive of limited express trains, within ten days, will be sold at $10 from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and all points on the Delaware Division; $9.70 from Lancaster; $8.60 from Altoona and Harrisburg; $8.25 from Wilkesbarre; $5.80 from Williamsport and at proportionate rates from other points. A stop over will be allowed at Buffalo, Rochester and Watkins returning.

A special train of Pullman parlor cars and day coaches will be run with each excursion.

In connection with excursion of September 4, excursion tickets will be sold September 7, 8, and 9 from Niagara Falls to Toronto, via Lewistown and steamer, at rate of $1.50 for the round trip, on account of the Victorian Era Exposition and Industrial Fair, to be held at Toronto Aug 30 to September 11, 1897.

For further information apply to nearest ticket agent, or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenge Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. 8-28 2t

"My boy came home from school one day with his hand badly lacerated and bleeding, and suffering great pain," says Mr. E. J. Schall, with Meyer Bros.' Drug Co., St. Louis Mo. I dressed the wound, and applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm freely All pain ceased and in a remarkably short time it healed without leaving a scar. For wounds, sprains, swellings and rheumatism, I know of no medicine or prescription equal to it. I consider it a household necesity." The 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by H. Roberts Druggist, Easton.

A Handsome Gain.

Easton National Bank had a statement of its condition at the close of business Tuesday printed at the GAZETTE office Wednesday. It showed a growth in individual deposits of $78,000 since its last statement, made July 23d, the figures being $361,000 and $439,000 respectively. The "Advance Agent of Prosperity" did it.

Grand Display of Brittles.

Mr. S. A. Meintzer has on exhibition to day at his Ice Cream, Confectionary and Bakery establishment on Dover St. the grandest display of brittles ever seen in Easton. These consist of peanut, pop corn, cocoanut and walnut brittles, delicious, cheap and fresh to-day. Call and see the counters, it will be a treat even to look at such a variety of elegant brittle. 8-28-2-t

Queensware, Woodenware, Groceries &c., Extra Cheap at
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OWING TO
THE GREAT RUSH



And not half being able to supply the demands I will remain in Easton up until Sept. 25. This will give the public plenty of time to have their eyes properly attended to, so take advantage of this grand opportunity. Don't miss the chance in supplying yourself with a pair of my fine ground crystal glasses. You will be surprised at the great comfort for writing, reading or other close work. If you are a headache sufferer, they will act like a tonic on your eyes, with almost instant relief. No charge for the examination of your eyes by Siegel the scientific manufacturer and optician from 11 E. Balto. St. Baltimore Md., who has been visiting and examining eyes in Easton as well as throughout the State of Maryland ever since 1873 and well known for reliability. Is at Dr. Trippe's office daily from 9 to 11:30 A. M. 2 to 5:30 P. M. Reasonable charges for glasses. Entire satisfaction guaranteed. Beware of imposters. No agents or peddlers are employed. J. Siegel, Optician, at Dr. Trippe's office, Easton Md.

Delinquent Taxes.

As required by Chap. 75, Acts 1894, Local Laws for Talbot County, I herewith publish a list of delinquent taxes for 1896. To each bill must be added interest from Jan. 1, 1897, and 25 cents for cost of publication.

As further required by law, I shall, ninety days after date, proceed to schedule and advertise for sale any property on which the taxes may then be in arrears.

Nicholas Adams	$ 5 60
Geo. W. Adams	3 61
Gilbert Adams	9 22
Gilbert Adams	1 44
John Alexander	2 42
Thos. H. Anderson	31 12
Thos. Askins	1 44
Wm. E. Andrews	8 82
Henry Andrews	2 88
Mary E. Abbey	1 16
D. E. Anthony	3 63
James H. Andrews	2 88
Alex. H. Barnett	99 46
Chas. E. Bowdle	210 56
Damon Brooks	5 50
James T. Bartlett	132 25
Geo. W. Brooks	1 21
Nicholas Benson	1 16
Henrietta Brooks	1 88
Wm. A. Banks	5 26
Geo. W. Butler	2 31
Geo. T. Baynard	21 14
Peter Banks	4 38
John H. Banks	3 23
Nathaniel Bantum	2 74
Henrietta and George Brooks (balance)	2 57
Maria Brooks	1 16
George Brooks	1 73
Edw. Bantum	4 61
Matilda Biery	8 42
Wm. M. Bergman	118 96
W. L. Bates	1 16
Henry E. Bateman (balance)	14
Alfred Cooper (heirs)	1 33
A. D. Carroll	2 75
W. A. Cooper	5 88
Geo. F. Cox	53 38
Tony Corkran	2 31
M. E. Culbreth	8 64
Willie Ann Camper	1 16
Frank Camphor	1 16
Mrs. Susan F. Clark	20 47
Andrew Collison	3 47
Chas. Corkran	1 50
Henry B. Cox	5 77
Eug. M. Corkran	5 48
John Camper	17 53
Capt. Josephus Crockett	13 92
Louisa Clark	2 04
Mary E. Camper	2 11
Levin W. Carey	4 61
Chas. T. Collison	2 31
Thos. Clark (balance)	39
Annie Carroll	1 16
Ephraim Diffenderfer	1 50
Ozias N. Dunn	23 86
Thomas Dyer	7 49
James W. Downes	2 54
Abraham Douglass	3 75
Minnie Douglass	1 84
Richard Dyer	4 02
Alexander Downes	2 01
John W. Dowdy	2 31
Frederick Dornton	19 19
Mrs. L. G. Dawson	22 77
William Dixon	2 71
Jacob Delehay	14 90
Wm. M. Elliott	5 77
J. C. & M. T. G. Earle & F. C. Goldsboro'	99 31
Joseph M. Frampton	1 16
B. D. Fooks	11 96
John E. Friend	3 67
Wm. H. H. Gibson	1 77
Horace Grey	2 88
George R. Gorsuch	17 29
Golden Reef Lodge	5 13
M. T. Goldsborough	312 04
Capt. Richard Gibson	2 02
Thos. J. Griffin	30 90
Henry Gibson	1 16
Spedden O. Harris	16 14
W. Asbury Hall	3 46
Nathaniel Hopkins	2 17
Caroline Hopkins	1 16
James Hubbard & wife	4 16
Henry Halt	3 23
Eugenia D. Hart	4 33
Marion Hart	2 88
Margaret J. Harrison	8 84
Mrs. S. G. Hudson	2 71
James E. Haddaway	2 31
Wm. J. Hill	1 16
Anna Hambleton	112 81
Catharine Hogan	5 99
Nicholas Harrison	12 22
J. Seth Hopkins	46 10
Mrs. Ella Hill	5 19
Phillip Irving	2 34
David Jones	1 44
Edw. Jones	4 33
John Johnson	1 73
Ann Jones	7 34
Miss Nexie Jump	6 92
Henry Jenkins	2 50
Alice Johns	1 16
James Jackson	1 50
Marion W. Kibble	4 61
John G. Korb	14 68
Robt. J. Kinnamon	1 16
Mrs. Ann R. Leonard	18 94
Henry Lawrenson	1 80
Charles Lavery	4 61
Mrs. Mary E. Lyons	19 21
S. H. Leonard	1 26
A. H. Mullikin	42 36
Allen A. Mills	3 79
James B. Morrow	13 83
A. H. Mullikin	1 50
Ella Markland	9 92
L. Hill Mullikin	8 86
Mrs. Anna Markland	3 46
J. Harry Mills	5 12
Jas. Mackery (heirs)	20 28
F. W. Miles & wife	4 61
A. M. E. Meinecke	25 26
Jas. C. Mullikin	43 10
Kits Madden (heirs)	2 31
Allen A. Mills	2 82
H. Aaron Mills	3 46
Jos. E. Merrick	16 07
Geo. W. Mills	7 22
Susie H. Matthews	14 28
Lewis A. McConekin	6 11
Wm. McDaniel	4 90
Henry Miller	1 73
Margaret Miller	4 61
W. Eugene Mitchell	27 03
Richard D. McLean	21 39
Fanny A Nickerson	23 06
Henry Newman Sr. (heirs)	4 02
Henry R. Newman (heirs)	2 88
Nickerson & Wooters	10 38
Mrs. Mary E. Newman	5 56
Wm. E. Newman	1 84
G. V. O. Fellows Lodge, Oxford	14 29
Lewis Ozman	2 79
Capt. Isaac Parrott (bal)	9 02
Wm. H. & John W. Payne	7 07
John W. Payne	5 77
Anna M. Pastorfield	8 35
Julia M. Perkins	5 35
Cora Paul (Trustee)	5 77
Susan E. Parriss	20 40
Solomon Pippin	87 38
Perry Potts	13 05
Thomas E. Pinder	1 73
Matilda Price (bal)	2 16
Martin D. Plummer	3 54
Henrietta Price	4 44
Jos. Queen	1 16
Albert K. Robins	3 46
John W. Rice	45 48
Wm. A. Richards	8 07
John Rumbold	3 46
George Roy	1 73
Eugene Ross	136 90
Julia Reynolds	88 88
W. S. Roberts	10 38
Elisha Rollins	2 34
Thomas L. Sherwood	2 54
John J. Speaker	8 74
J. W. Salmonds	1 76
Henry Snyder	1 16
George Sewall	3 52
Frank Slaughter	1 84
John S. Schuyley	1 21
Frank Schwaninger	7 26
Mrs. T. B. Stewart	4 02
T. B. Stewart	29 91
W. J. Stant	10 89
John R. Stanton	3 46
Martha L. Sarles	3 46
Martha Skinner	2 59
M. M Seymour	11 35
Nicholas B. Stevens	12 89
P. W. Stewart Jr.	78 95
Geo. W. Schuyler	1 62
Robert H. Stanton	8 07
Nicholas F. Sanders	3 46
George W. Stewart	6 92
John W. Scott	18 20
Wm. H. Slow	2 31
Rebert T. Smith	5 19
John G. Schultz	5 77
Benjamin Thomas	6 92
John W. Todd and Sons	38 04
James C. Tarbutton	114 48
William E. Todd and Company	1 73
Albert H. Valliant	7 07
Lambert T. Waters	5 77
Sarah E. Williams	1 16
James W. Wolvington	116 85
Thomas H. Wyatt	3 46
Wilson Wells	4 21
Tillie Willis Stewart and Company	73 30
Charles R. B. Willis	5 34
Edwin M. Wilmer (bal)	49
Isaac Walley	6 05
Joshua Waters	2 88
John F. Webster	8 47
James McK. Willis	5 16
J. McK. and Samuel P. Willis	122 27
Chas. Wright	3 11
Nancy Wilson	3 69
Robert Williams	5 44
Thomas H. Williams	5 00
Walter M. Wright	27 29
Samuel P. Willis	89 01
W. W. Webb	6 92
Solmon Wells	4 61
Daniel Wilson	7 49
Milley Young	2 31
James Young	4 49
Chas. and Alice Young	4 75
Oxford Savings Bank	7 16
Lloyd's Landing Wharf Company	2 34

PERCIVAL MULLIKIN,
Collector of State and County Taxes for Trappe Dist., Talbot Co., Md. Aug. 19, 1897.

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