

hammocks swung from the boughs of trees, we were somewhat disturbed in our slumbers. We also spent our time photographing the old Indian ruins and exploring the forest in the vicinity. Dry and highly sensitive plates, such as are in ordinary use now, did not then exist, and every photographer was obliged to carry about the necessary materials for preparing and developing his own plates, which might either be wet, entailing immediate development, or dry (tanning), when they could be kept for some days. The whole photographic apparatus, including chemicals, fitted into a case, which formed a load for one of our Indian carriers. Our first essay at photography in the forest was not a success, as we found that after exposing the plates for twenty minutes no details were to be seen. This we discovered was owing to the dense green foliage overhead, through which the light had scarcely any effect in dissolving the nitrate of silver on the plate, and consequently no image was produced. In order to overcome this difficulty, we then hired Indians to cut down the trees which shaded the objects we wished to photograph. This delayed us a few days, which, however, we employed in collecting birds and insects, until a sufficient number of trees were felled to admit light upon the ruins, when we again proceeded to take photographs of the large monoliths, now obtaining very successful results. These ruins are fully described and illustrated in the 'Archæology' of the 'Biologia,' by A. P. Maudslay.

From Quirigua we again took the mule track, for it could hardly be called a road, through the valley of the Motagua River to Zacapa, and thence to Guatemala City. We spent a day or two at the Capital and then proceeded to Dueñas, where we remained for some weeks in most delightful quarters at the house of Mr. William Wyld, a friend of Salvin's. Our time at this place was devoted to collecting, chiefly in the high forests of the Volcan de Fuego, the peak of which we ascended, and I made a separate expedition to Escuintla in the Pacific Coast region. After our stay at Dueñas we retraced our steps to the Capital, and, crossing the Chuacus Range into the plain of Salama, we took up our abode at the Hacienda of San Gerónimo. Here we resided for some weeks, finding several species of birds and insects which we had not previously obtained. From San Gerónimo we went to Coban, and, after spending some time collecting in the neighbourhood, we visited Cubilguitz and Choctum in the low damp forest of Alta Vera Paz. At Cubilguitz, unfortunately, I contracted a sharp attack of fever, which obliged me to remain for some days at Coban to recruit and prevented my accompanying Salvin on his long and arduous journey on foot to Peten.

When I had recovered sufficiently I returned to San Gerónimo and then went to Buenaventura on the upper waters of the Motagua River, there called the Rio Grande, where I employed Indians to poison some nine miles of the water in order to make a collection of the fish. Before commencing operations I noticed one of the 'mozos' lying flat beside the river, wafting some burning material over the surface of the water, and, upon questioning him, I elicited that he was propitiating the spirit of the river