

HONDURAS.

The Republic of Honduras is bounded by the Bay of that name and the Caribbean Sea on the north, by Guatemala on the west, and Salvador, the Pacific Ocean, and Nicaragua on the south; it includes the islands of Ruatan, Bonaca (Guanaja), and the islands adjacent. The general aspect of the country is mountainous, and it is traversed by ranges and hills radiating from the base of the Cordillera. The main chain, which does not approach within 50 or 60 miles of the Pacific, is not an unbroken one, as it turns back and forms basins or valleys, within which are collected the head-waters of the streams which flow in the direction of the Atlantic Ocean. Viewed from the Pacific, the mountains present the appearance of a great natural wall, with a lower range bristling with volcanic peaks between it and the Western Ocean. The Cordillera proper forms an irregular line from north-west to south-east, interrupted, however, by the great transverse depression of Comayagua, which extends about 40 miles to the north with a width of from 5 to 15 miles, and contains the Humuya River, which discharges its waters into the Atlantic; while to the south it forms the valley of the Goascoran River, which flows into the Pacific. The whole country has a great diversity of surface and elevation, with fertile valleys and high plains, affording every variety of climate.

Some notes on the aspect of this country were published in 'The Ibis' for 1860 by G. Cavendish Taylor. He crossed from the Pacific to the Atlantic Coast, and many of the places described have been mentioned in the 'Aves' section of this work. Arriving in December 1857, from Panama, at La Union, Salvador, he crossed to the island of Tigre, and thence to La Brea in the Gulf of Fonseca, which is studded with densely wooded volcanic islands. Tigre abounds with scorpions and large hairy spiders, and many birds were obtained near an old crater, now a lagoon full of reeds and floating grass. Mr. Taylor visited Aremecina, Caridad, San Juan, and Lamani, and so over the tolerably level plain mostly covered with forests to Comayagua. In the vicinity of the town were cactus bushes on one side, dense jungle intersected by rivers and woods on the other, and high mountains bounding the plain. Continuing his journey towards the Atlantic, Siquatepeque was reached by a route crossing the top of the mountains at an elevation of 5000 feet—here again was open plain, 3600 feet above sea-level, and surrounded by mountains; then after passing over undulating ground covered with pine trees, giving it a park like appearance, he arrived at Taulevi. Here arrangements had to be made for the journey through the dense forests to the Lake of Yojoa, some three leagues distant. Men had to be sent forward to clear a path and engage boats for the passage down the lake. The route lay at first by open