

Salvin then revisited his old quarters at San Gerónimo, and taking his friend Robert Owen, the proprietor of the Hacienda, with him, he rode over the high land round Quiché and Totonicapam at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Here the climate is temperate, potatoes and wheat are largely grown, and on the uncultivated ground oaks, pines, and alders abound. Thence, crossing the Cordillera, he proceeded to Quezaltenango, a large town in the 'Altos,' and the capital of a considerable district, which he describes ('Ibis,' 1865, p. 187) as a corn growing and sheep producing highland; thence to Retalhuleu and on to the port of San José. At Retalhuleu he heard such glowing accounts of the prospect of obtaining a valuable collection of sea-birds and fish from the lagoons on the coast that he took a passage in a trading barque which was going from San José to Champerico to take in a cargo of coffee and sugar, and succeeded in procuring a large number of specimens.

When Salvin had finished collecting on the lagoons, he made an expedition to a belt of tropical forest parallel to the coast, but about twelve miles distant. Here it was that he specially remarked the contrast between the birds of the Pacific and Atlantic coasts—many of the most familiar birds of the low forest of Vera Paz, the Tinamidæ, *Columba nigristrois*, and *Ostinops montezuma*, being entirely absent, nor does one find the genera *Rhamphocelus* or *Calliste*, or the beautiful *Cotinga amabilis*. Much of the forest consists of bamboo, with here and there a huge tree standing high above it. Between this forest and the coast the soil is comparatively unproductive, bearing the stamp of land reclaimed from the ocean at no very distant date. The long line of volcanoes suggests a recent upheaval, and the constant discharge of sand by every river would tend to advance the coast by slow degrees. This low country is very subject to malarial fever—although Salvin escaped, his two attendants contracted it. Salvin returned to England soon after this, early in 1863, but ten years later, in the autumn of 1873, he paid his fourth and last visit to Guatemala, this time in company with his wife; although he added considerably to our collections the route taken was much the same as on previous expeditions.

In this description of Guatemala, it must be remembered that when I visited it over fifty years ago there were no railways. There is now a railway from Puerto Barrios on the Atlantic Coast up the Motagua Valley to the capital and thence to the Pacific coast at San José, with a branch running from Mixtan near Escuintla to Retalhuleu and Champerico. The country, therefore, is at the present time readily accessible by steamer from Belize and thence from the Atlantic port by train.