

FORTRESS  
THE ~~CHICHILTICALLI~~ CHICHILTICALLI AND THE RED LAND OF THE SOUTH.



In Early Far West Paper No. 2, we have seen <sup>The great fortress,</sup> that Chichilticalli, <sup>whose ruins</sup> ~~was seen by Fray Marcos, Captain Diaz, and the army of Coronado at diverse times from 1539 to 1542,~~ <sup>Arizona;</sup> ~~has~~ by some authors been identified with the Casa Grande below Florence, Arizona;

~~that~~ that it was regarded by Bandelier, in his Final Report, Part II, as having been situated at or near Fort Grant; by Squier, on his "Map of the Valleys of the Rio Grande and Rio Gila," as having been not far from present Safford; and by Hodge, in his "Coronado's March to Quivira," as having been in the neighborhood of Solomonsville.

In "The Gilded Man," Bandelier says that it was "within a quadrangle which is bounded on the east by New Mexico, on the west by the Rio San Pedro, on the south by Sonora, and on the north by the Gila River." He also alludes to the opinion, expressed <sup>earlier</sup> in his "Final Report," that it was in the vicinity of the new Fort Grant; and he remarks, "If this site should not be found to answer, then the ruins at Eagle Creek, west of Clifton, might be considered." And finally, he indicates that neither the Fort Grant nor the Eagle Creek location is free from objection; ~~concludes that~~ <sup>expresses</sup> the opinion ~~is~~

~~that~~ that "the ruin does not stand <sup>upon</sup> any stream;" and ~~concludes~~ <sup>concludes</sup> that "it is impossible to fix the exact place."<sup>e</sup>

Footnote: See op. cit., pp. 171, 173.

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Footnote

\*Castañeda's Narrative says that the negro, Stephen, "had gone so far ahead of the friars that when they reached ~~Chichilticalli~~ Chichilticalli, which ~~is~~ the beginning of the wilderness, he was already at Cibola." Castañeda always represents that there ~~was~~ more than one friar in ~~the~~ Friar Mark's expedition of 1539, in quest of Cibola; and so there ~~was~~, at the start. (See Early Far West Paper No. 1.)

~~CHICHILTICALLI AND ITS INHABITANTS~~

Chichilticalli was already a noted structure and place before Coronado reached it; for, in describing the latter's arrival there in 1540, Castañeda speaks of "the fame of Chichilticalli" and of the general's disappointment at not finding there <sup>something</sup> more than one house, and that a roofless ruin. It had been passed about the last of April, 1539, by Estevan, the negro, enroute to Cibola as advance-courier of Fray Marcos de Niza; and only a week or so later by Fray Marcos himself, who started from it May 9th, <sup>(O.S.)</sup> to cross the White Mountain Wilderness.\* The friar must have told of it in New Spain, on his return thither in the same year; for, Coronado cites him as having said that "the port of Chichilticale.....was on the 35th degree."\*

Footnote

\*In Coronado's Letter to Mendoza, as Translated by Winship in Bu. Eth. Ann. Rep. XIV. See also Early Far West Paper No. 1.

In Early Far West Paper, No. 1, we have seen that in the fall of 1539 Melchior Diaz was sent north ~~to~~ to test the accuracy of the report which the enthusiastic ~~fray~~ Fray Marcos had brought back from that quarter; that <sup>Diaz</sup> ~~he~~ started from Culiacan with fifteen horsemen on the 17th of November; that he went, according to Castañeda, as far as Chichilticalli, which he probably reached about the last of the year; that he obtained, at points ~~along~~ upon his route, such information as he could concerning Cibola; and finally that he wrote to Mendoza a letter, or report, which the viceroy received on the 20th of March, 1540. From Castañeda's statement that Diaz went as far as Chichilticalli,

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and from the expression, "this village," in Diaz' letter to Mendoza, (which constitutes plain evidence that Diaz wrote from a village,) one might infer that Diaz wrote from the place of his journey's end, Chichilticalli, and therefore that the ruined Chichilticalli was the village to which Diaz referred, and was a group of separate ruined

houses, like the group whose remains were formerly conspicuous in the vicinity of present Solomonsville, <sup>and that, on some maps of Arizona (as Rand and Mc Nally's, 1881) appears as "Pueblo Viejo," or Old Village;</sup> or, one might infer that, by "this village," he referred to an inhabited Indian village <sup>near by the</sup> ~~old~~ Chichilticalli <sup>ruin.</sup>

But more careful consideration shows that such inferences would be ~~wrong~~. In the first place, as we <sup>notice elsewhere</sup> ~~more~~ particularly, ~~Castafeda~~ Castafeda says that Coronado found the remains of the original Chichilticalli "sumped up"—not in a village, or assemblage of houses, but—"in one tumble-down house." In the second place, as we have seen in Early Far West Paper, No. 2, Castafeda tells us that the inhabitants of the Chichilticalli district of 1540-42 were wild and scattered hunters who did not live in villages.

Discussed in Gregory's Report  
by Emory and Johnston  
by Meritt 1846.

<sup>it</sup> Thus appears that no <sup>inhabited</sup> village existed at Chichilticalli in 1540; <sup>and that no scattered ruins such as Diaz would have been likely to call a village, was seen there;</sup> and <sup>and</sup> that the village from which Diaz wrote to Mendoza, was not at Chichilticalli but elsewhere. In Early Far West Paper, No. 1, <sup>instead,</sup> it has been shown that he ~~wrote~~ wrote his report to the viceroy in a village on San Pedro River; but for the sake of making that fact doubly clear in this connection, <sup>and although</sup> ~~involving~~ some repetition, we shall here briefly discuss the matter anew.

The letter of Diaz itself contains evidence that the inhabitants of the village from which he wrote were Indians many of whom had been to Cibola year after year, as those of the middle San Pedro River villages had told Fray Marcos that they had been; <sup>those whom Diaz interviewed</sup> one of ~~being~~ <sup>being</sup> of the number who ~~had~~ had accompanied Estevan to Cibola.

~~As it is clear, from his~~ <sup>As it is clear, from Fray Marcos'</sup> ~~narrative,~~ <sup>narrative,</sup> that Estevan's ~~escort~~ <sup>escort</sup> was drawn from the ~~same source~~ <sup>same source</sup> as the friar's, and that the latter's was drawn from the ~~middle~~ <sup>middle</sup> middle San Pedro River villages, Diaz' Indian informant—the one especially mentioned as having been with Estevan to Cibola—was evidently a San Pedro River Indian, and the village in which he and the rest of the alleged 300 of Estevan's escort assembled and from which they accompanied the negro to Cibola, was undoubtedly the same as that in which Fray Marcos later waited three days for his escort to get ready,—namely, the last or most



the village in which he wrote his letter to Mendoza, was 19 days' journey, or <sup>about</sup> 100 leagues," from Cibola.

*Footnote* "That is 20 plus 80; for everything shows that the "15 great dayes journey" of the "despoblado grande" that separated Chichilticalli from Cibola, was equivalent, ~~not~~ to the conventional 75, but ~~was~~ to 80 leagues.

Chichilticalli is ~~described~~ described, by the chroniclers of Coronado's expedition, ~~other than Diaz~~, as being on the edge of a wilderness, or uninhabited region of mountains, that lay between it and Cibola: a wilderness where the character of the country and the direction of the mountains changed; where the spiky vegetation ceased, and the mountains were covered with forests of tall pines and great quantities of nut-pines (piñones). The wilderness to which these descriptions apply, is clearly that which lay between the Gila River and the upper Colorado Chiquito, and whose main portion was later known as the White Mountain region and the home of the White Mountain ~~Apaches~~ Apaches: the <sup>main</sup> stronghold <sup>hiding-place</sup> whence these so-called "Coyoteros," with their kindred from the <sup>Sierra Florida</sup> Sierra Chiricahua, and elsewhere, were destined to make their ~~mountain~~ predatory ~~raids~~ and bloody descents upon the Spanish settlements of Northern Mexico, until large portions of that country, after having enjoyed a considerable period of mining and agricultural prosperity, should be almost depopulated.

~~Diaz' letter, so far as Mendoza quotes it, recites chiefly the information that he had obtained about Cibola; but~~

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red earth and red rock of the Garden of the Gods and vicinity, at the foot of Pike's Peak, and from which <sup>have been derived</sup> the old Spanish names of Pike's Peak and of Fountain Creek, "Sierra del Almagre" and "Rio del Almagre," ~~the~~ ~~and the~~ "Almagra Mountains" mentioned ~~in~~ with "the Cordilleras de la Gila" by H.M. Robert, Major Engineers, Military Division of the Pacific, in 1870, as part of the proposed southern boundary of a White Mountain Indian Reservation.\* ~~with~~ ~~concerning~~ ~~to~~ ~~red~~ ~~stone~~

Footnote

\*His description of the boundary proposed in his letter of January 31, 1870, reads in part as follows: "up the Pinal Creek to the top of the Pinal Mountains; then following the crest of the Pinal range, 'the Cordilleras de la Gila', the 'Almagra Mountains', and other mountains bordering the north bank of the Gila River, to the New Mexican boundary near Steeple Rock." ~~See~~ (Rep. Com'r Ind. Aff. for 1878, p. 233.) In ~~the~~ "Notes," of 1846, the whole Gila

~~range on the north of Gila River, opposite or nearly opposite~~  
~~of the ancient red House on the south of the river.~~

~~as in the "Notes," of 1846, the whole Gila~~  
Range was called the "Sierra Carlos" by Lieutenant Emory, who was under the impression that the name of ~~the~~ Gila Bonito Creek was "San Carlos": an error that was part of the confusion that ~~existed~~ existed in the minds of the guides of the Army of the West, regarding names of the northern tributaries of Gila River. Under date of October 29, Emory wrote, "The crimson tinted Sierra Carlos skirted the river on the north side the whole day." <sup>Gila</sup> ~~The mountains themselves were not of such color, but were so~~ <sup>tinted by deciduous scrub oak foliage, which turns red in autumn.</sup> <sup>in part</sup>

Supplm.

It is noteworthy that none of the descriptions of Chichilticalli by the old Spanish chroniclers, mentions more than one house; and the expressions used by them—"this building," "a house," "the house," "red house for one that was there," "summed up in one tumble-down house"—~~only~~ ~~point~~ ~~to~~ ~~Chichilticalli~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~solitary~~ ~~house.~~ ~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~place~~ ~~with~~ ~~other.~~ This contravenes an identification of el Pueblo Viejo, or of village ruins near Solomonsville and San José, with Chichilticalli, ~~and, as far as it goes, it supports the view that the solitary house ruin found near Goodwin Creek and~~ ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~1846~~ ~~by~~ ~~Lieutenant~~ ~~Emory~~ ~~and~~ ~~Captain~~ ~~Johnston,~~ ~~or~~ ~~at~~ ~~least~~ ~~one~~ ~~solitary~~ ~~house~~ ~~ruin~~ ~~in~~ ~~that~~ ~~western~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Pueblo~~ ~~Valley,~~ ~~is~~ ~~identical~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~ancient~~ ~~Chichilticalli.~~

Footnote

\*According to the topographical map of Lieutenant Wheeler's surveys of 1871-3, the "Pueblo Viejo Valley" extends down the Gila from just west of the <sup>narrow strip</sup> ~~Coloncillo Range~~ to the northern offing of Mount Turnbull; <sup>but the</sup> ~~both~~ ~~between~~ ~~the~~ ~~latter~~ ~~and~~ ~~San~~ ~~Carlos~~ ~~is~~ ~~an~~ ~~extension~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~valley.~~  
"Pueblo Valley" (called in the sub-reports of those surveys)