
**Central and South America,
Volume 2**

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(NEW ISSUE)



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Algernon E. Aspidual.

THE CULEBRA CUT, PANAMA CANAL.

On 7th November 1910.

Photo.

STANFORD'S
COMPENDIUM OF GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL
(NEW ISSUE)

CENTRAL
AND
SOUTH AMERICA

VOL. II
CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

BY

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SECOND EDITION

MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THERE has been little scope for geographical research in the scattered region embraced by this volume since its first issue ten years ago. Most of the lands here dealt with are included in the best known and longest established sections of the New World, so that actual exploration has been mainly confined to a few outlying districts in Honduras, Yucatan, and the Mexican Sierras Madres. In Mexico the most distinguished name is certainly that of Karl Lumholtz, an indefatigable worker in this field, to whom anthropologists will be grateful if only for the discovery of the Huichols, in some respects the most remarkable of all the Amerinds. Much important exploration work has been carried out by Mr. T. Fenwick in British Honduras, where some conspicuous heights now bear the names of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, while M. de Périgny has brought to light the extensive ruins of *Río Becque* in Yucatan, and E. Seler those of *Chaculá* in Guatemala. Of actual discoveries this is about the sum and substance.

But, on the other hand, nearly the whole region under consideration has been subject to an almost uninterrupted series of overground and underground convulsions of an exceptionally disastrous character.

The total disappearance in 1902 of the flourishing city of St. Pierre in Martinique, with all its 35,000 inhabitants, was the beginning of a large number of lesser but still severe calamities, which culminated with the devastating hurricane that swept over the island of Cuba in October 1910.

In the political world this island is also mainly concerned, its troubled history having at last been brought to a close by the satisfactory agreement with the United States, fully described in its place.

A. H. K.