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in the Year 1826: With some Account of the Mines of that Country: Volume 1

G. F. Lyon

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The British naval officer George Francis Lyon (1795–1832) survived extremes of African heat and Arctic cold during his colourful career. Remembered chiefly for the engaging journals he kept, and for his watercolours of the Arctic, he was fascinated by the indigenous peoples of the lands he explored, notably being tattooed by Inuit and eating raw caribou and seal meat with them. In 1826 he sailed to Mexico, then recovering from its war of independence, to serve as a commissioner for an English mining company. His vivid and often entertaining two-volume account of his experiences was published in 1828. In Volume 1, Lyon complains of his first nights being disturbed by ‘dogs, pigs and restless cocks’, and on his way to the mining area of Zacatecas he visits a church where a figure of Christ made him recall a ‘creation of Frankenstein’.

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*With Some Account of the Mines of that Country*

VOLUME 1

G.F. LYON



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OF  
A RESIDENCE AND TOUR  
IN THE  
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO  
IN THE YEAR 1826.  
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE  
MINES OF THAT COUNTRY.

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BY CAPT. G. F. LYON, R.N. F.R.S.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.  
VOL. I.

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TO

JOHN TAYLOR, Esq. F.R.S. F.G.S. &c.

MANAGER OF THE REAL DEL MONTE  
AND BOLAÑOS COMPANIES.



*MY DEAR SIR,*

*IN dedicating to you the following  
Journal of my Tour through several of the  
Mexican States, I am happy in having it in  
my power publicly to express my grateful*

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DEDICATION.

*sense of your kindness to me, throughout the  
official intercourse which took place between  
us during the period of my engagement in  
Mexico ; and to subscribe myself,*

*My Dear Sir,*

*Your grateful obliged Servant,*

*G. F. LYON.*



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**T**HE interest which is felt by the public in all that relates to Mexico, renders me anxious lest the limited quantity of information I am able to communicate should occasion disappointment. It is therefore necessary to state, that the following Journal pretends to nothing more than an account of my personal adventures during a residence of eight months in various parts of that country. Although it does not contain matter of much importance, it is a faithful narrative of what I saw : and I trust it will be found to give a fair representation of the state of the Republic, and to add in

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some degree to the very small stock of information which exists respecting the people and general appearance of that portion of the New World.

I have further to regret, that my materials, already too scanty, were rendered more so by the loss of many papers, and the greater part of my collections, in the wreck of the *Panthea*, in which I returned to England.

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