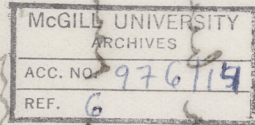


2, least; thank you
for the photograph.

This is a very curious
place Mexico City is full of
all sorts of people, and
also very full of very
bad smells. It is sur-
prising that the people & the
bad smells manage to
get on so well together as
they seem to do. I suppose
they have lived together so
long that they have ceased
to disagree. The streets
are very long and not
very wide. They all run at
right-angles to each other
and at the end of every



Mexico
Saturday

Dear Clara
I am glad
to hear that you had
sent a photo, which you
had taken on your own
account, and a letter
to me in London. They
did not arrive unfortunately
before I left, but will
no doubt be quite safe,
& I shall receive them
later on. In the mean-
time although I cannot
answer the letter, I can at

street you see mountains, this is because
the plain on which Mexico is built is
surrounded by mountains. Do you remem-
ber to have heard of Popocatepetl? It is a
very fine mountain over 17,000 feet high &
covered with snow. It is a good way off, but
is quite easily seen through very beautiful
on a fine day. Another mountain not
quite so high is near it, & is called the White
Lady, I suppose because of the snow, or because
of its elegant shape or both. I am sure you
every where in Mexico & out of it. One very

curious custom they have here. Jews or their
kins for the same place always run together
& then for a long time there are none. They
say that formerly this was done for safety &
that now it is done because it is the habit.

All the people here are very fond of gambling
They have lotteries almost every week, & poor
people sell the tickets at all the street corners
as the newspapers sell papers in other cities.
Many of the tickets are very cheap like those
I shall enclose to show you what they are
like. Others where the prizes are larger cost more

kind to us, had better
fortune and won \$300
one day, and over \$700
on the next. However it
is a foolish game as
anyone who plays much
is sure to lose in the
long run.

There seem to be a great
many pleasant people in
Mexico but unfortunately
it is not always easy
to get to know them, or to
talk to them, as compar-
atively few speak any
English. We are staying
with the British Minister
here, who has a fine large

But even these are divided
up so that you can get
10th or 20th of a ticket if you
like. At Tacubaya which
is a sort of suburb, two or
three miles out of the city, they
have a lot of gambling places,
chiefly roulette. People
who care for that sort of
thing drive out, and try their
luck in the afternoon. One
English lady on Saturday
last lost more than
\$1,000 dollars - fortunately
dollars here are only worth
half as much as dollars
are in Montreal. A gentleman
I have met here who has
been most hospitable &

house and who of course knows every-
body so we have had an excellent
opportunity of seeing something of the people
who are at the head of things. Tonight
the President and his wife are going to
dine here, which is considered rather an
honor. She and her sisters are very
pretty women, which means a great
deal here, beauty being very
highly valued & appreciated. & those
who possess it being made much of.

There is a great deal more which one
might say about Mexico, but I haven't time
now to say it. There is a cathedral here & a num-
ber of churches, a mint, a museum & all sorts of
other things of interest. Also there are about 60
American tourists who have come down on an
excursion to "do the sights", & who are as curious as
anything else in Mexico.

I shall send a paper to your father, as a sample.
I enclose too a notice of Mr. Redpath's death from the Times.
Give it please to Grandfather who may not perhaps have
seen it.

With all loving good wishes to all the Mother's Daughters
Yours affectionate Uncle, Rankine.