

His Life a Romance Prominent Mexican Capitalist Passes through Chicago. Senor Latz His Name Has

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# HIS LIFE A ROMANCE.

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Prominent Mexican Capitalist  
Passes Through Chicago.

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## SEÑOR LATZ HIS NAME

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Has Been a Fugitive from Justice  
for Over Twenty Years.

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J. M. Fareber Is His Real Name—  
Only Recently Permitted to  
Visit This Country.

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Yesterday just before the California and Mexican Express left the Dearborn Street Station it was boarded by a neatly dressed gentleman whose complexion told plainly

that he had been a resident of a Southern climate. It was Senor Miguel Latz, who is the senior member of the millionaire firm of Latz Bros., of Mexico, and until recently the mayor of Magdalena, and also prefect of the State of Sonora, and confidential fiscal agent of President Diaz. One of the most striking features of this man's career, however, is that until recently he has been a fugitive from American justice.

This is Senor Miguel Latz's first visit to the East since 1873, when through an unfortunate circumstance, that occurred in Southern Colorado, he was compelled to leave the United States. He has since lived under the protection of the Mexican flag, has grown rich by careful investments, and is honored by his neighbors.

For twenty years Senor Miguel Latz has kept his past history a secret from all except his confidential friend, who has worked incessantly to remove the barrier that prevented the mayor of Magdalena from ever setting foot on American soil. He was suffering from ill-health, and unless the efforts of his friend succeeded and a pardon be secured, he would fall a victim of tuberculosis, the best medical advice that could be procured pronouncing his fate sealed unless he could go North.

One of the last official acts of Governor Waite was to grant the long-sought pardon and Senor Miguel Latz became free to use once more his legitimate name, J. M. Fare-

ber, and to cross the line into the country of his adoption. He resigned his Mexican honors last February and has been since in search of health.

### **A Career Full of Incident.**

Fareber is a Polish Jew by birth. He was born in Posen in 1844 and came to America when a mere boy to seek his fortune. He arrived here a few months after the firing upon Fort Sumter and entered the army in defense of the stars and stripes. His army experience resulted only in his imprisonment on Belle Isle until the close of the war and a broken constitution.

On his release he returned to his native land. In 1873 he again landed on American soil. After a few months in Knoxville, Tenn., he went to Colorado and located in Costilla County, the southern portion of the State.

His career after that time is a most romantic one and is almost a parallel to that of Jean Valjean.

Fareber built a shanty in the Sangre de Christo pass and during the time of the excitement over the gold discoveries in the San Juan country, there was a stream of fortune hunters, accompanied by the usual number of desperate characters, going through this Mexican pass. Fareber opened a small store in his shanty and also built a corral to supply the trade of passing gold hunters.

Another adventurer came along and set up a rival establishment. His name was Stearns and his establishment was similar in all its details to that of the young Pole, but Fareber had an advantage, being located farther up the pass.

### **Killed a Half-Breed Mexican.**

A half-breed Mexican named Perry, a great friend of Stearns, hung around the pass, and one night he and a band of rioters rode by Fareber's place and proceeded to take charge of the supply of whisky. The proprietor attempted to repel the pillagers and in the melee Perry, who was as heedless as he was worthless, was shot through the heart.

Fareber, knowing Stearns' animosity toward him, gave himself up to the authorities at San Luis, but a Mexican sheriff secured his conviction through the bitter prejudices of a Mexican jury, and he was sentenced to a term in Canon City. He had a narrow escape from mob violence, which was the result of Stearns circulating the stories that Perry had been killed for the purpose of robbery. The Americans believed Fareber, and one night, by the use of money, they secured the aid of the Mexican jailer. A few nights later the guard opened his cell door and said, "Vamos sud." This was the last the jailer ever saw of his prisoner, who had taken a pair of blankets left for him in the hall and gone South.

In August, 1874, the stage which drove up to the door of the Arizona House in Tucson

brought with it Miguel Latz, a young Spanish Jew, in search of a position. He had come from the northern part of Spain, he said, and was anxious to settle in Arizona or Mexico on account of weak lungs. In due time he secured a clerkship in a mercantile house in the city and soon became assistant manager of the concern. A wealthy Mexican happened along one day and Miguel Latz went to Magdalena, State of Sonora, to take charge of a mercantile establishment. This was nearly twenty years ago.

### **Quickly Amassed a Fortune.**

Since that time Senor Miguel Latz, by industry and thrift, has amassed a fortune. He was joined by his brother, and when the big wagon concern of Studebaker Bros. extended their business into Mexico it was partially through Latz Bros.

Fourteen years ago Miguel led to the altar a beautiful Mexican woman, Senorita Don Anita. From that time on honors began to fall thick and fast, and his financial success made him a factor in the financial affairs of the government. He was appointed one of the fiscal agents and prefect of the State of Sonora by President Diaz, and was also chosen by his neighbors as president or mayor of the city of Magdalena.

About twelve years ago Senor Miguel Latz entertained as his guest United States Consul General Warner P. Sutton, of Washington. The Consul General and the Mexican capitalist became great friends, and the re-

sult of that friendship was the pardon granted by the Governor of Colorado to J. M. Fareber, who is the Mexican banker, Senor Miguel Latz. Latz was the maiden name of the mother of Fareber.

Mr. Fareber has been in the West consulting physicians in regard to his health, and only stopped off in Chicago to rest a day before resuming his journey to Colorado, where he is at present making his home.