

the idols and the other objects of sacrifice he brought for the Captain, and it did not miss that somebody saw this and told it to Grijalva, and he wanted to take it, and we prayed him not to do this, and as he was in good humor he ordered that the Royal fifth should be taken and the rest was given to the poor soldier and it had the value of 150 pesos.

“And I also want to tell how I planted some seeds of an orange next to another idol house, and this happened in this way: Because as there were many mosquitoes in that river, ten of us soldiers went to sleep in one of the tall idol houses, and next to this house I planted the seeds which I had brought from Cuba because it had been told us that we were going out to settle, and they grew very well because the priests of those idols cultivated them and watered them and cleaned them as soon as they noted that they were plants different from their own, and from these came all the oranges of that province . . .”*

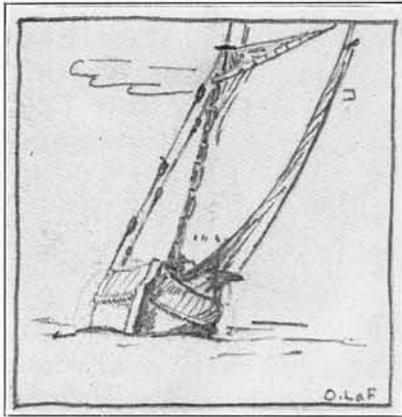


FIG. 64—Sailing Vessel on the Gulf Coast.

In this narrative are several points that interest us. First, the ruins, described as located about one league from the mouth of the river, were undoubtedly those which we were in search of; secondly, the small tale of the planting of the orange seeds. Here is then the place where the first oranges were planted on the American continent (and not in California).

We anchored near the settlement for a time and went ashore to procure guides and food. The guides told us of two ways by which to reach the stone monuments reported at the ruins. The one was by a dugout over the river and then following a small stream, a little more than a league from the Tonalá river. The other lay up the Tonalá river and then in through a tributary, the Blasillo river. This last route would give us a shorter distance to walk and to carry our equipment, so we decided on it.

With our motor going and the sail stretched out to protect us from the sun, we then proceeded up the Tonalá river. This river has several names. At the mouth it is called Tonalá, further up from the tributary Zanapa, to a place called Buena Vista, its name is Tancochapa, and from this last place it splits into two rivers, the Rio de las Playas, which runs nearly due south, and the Pedregal,

*Diaz, Bernal, Garcia Edition, 1904. Page 46-47.