

THE  
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO  
IN 1876.

A POLITICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHICAL DIVISION OF THE POPULATION,  
CHARACTER,  
HABITS, COSTUMES AND VOCATIONS OF ITS INHABITANTS

WRITTEN IN SPANISH  
BY  
ANTONIO GARCIA CUBAS

*Author of various geographical  
and statistical treatises respecting the same Republic*

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH  
BY  
GEORGE F. HENDERSON.

*Illustrated with plates of the principal types of the ethnographic families  
and several specimens of popular music*

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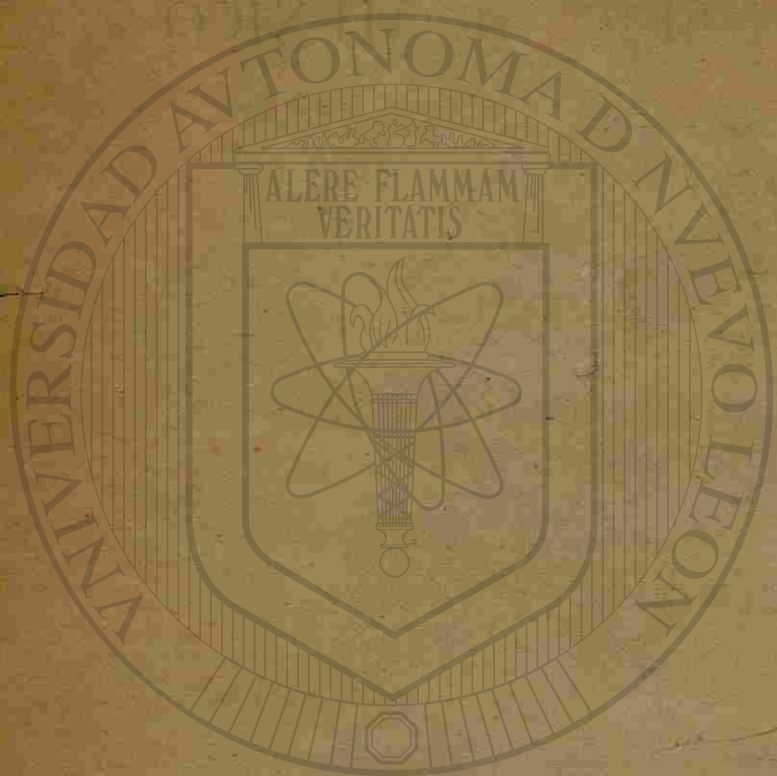
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TO

WILLIAM BARRON ESQUIRE

AS A TESTIMONIAL OF ESTEEM AND GRATITUDE

HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT

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This book has been written with the view of removing the wrong impressions that may have been left on the minds of the readers of those works which, with evil intent or with the desire of acquiring notoriety as novelists, have been composed and published by different foreigners in regard to the Mexican nation. The impressions received during a rapid excursion of pure amusement, without making any longer stay in the various towns, than the time required to repack their valise and continue on a journey of useless results; the isolated facts that are observed in every society in contradiction to general rules, and a disposition to judge events without a proper examination and careful study, are not sufficient to obtain a complete knowledge of any class of people, and much less to authorize such impressions through the medium of the press. The works of similar writers, in misleading the conceptions of the public, conspire against the real utility of general information, as their ideas (in direct opposition to those given to the world by such profound observers as Humboldt, Burkart, Sartorius and Jourdanet,) cannot convey any instruction to our intelligence, but only dispose the mind to receive the impressions produced by the novel.

The scarcity of the population of Mexico in comparison to its large extent of territory; the unrivalled geographical position of the country, between the two great Oceans,



the fertility and topographical advantages of its lands, which are adapted to every kind of productions and to the life of men of every clime, the docile character of its inhabitants, the admirable falls of water, particularly in the delightful temperate regions, with their perpetual streams, offer the highest inducements to the establishment of manufacturing and other enterprizes; the working of mines of precious metals and other useful mineral substances, the extraction especially of quicksilver and coal, and in short so many and so propitious gifts as those with which Nature has enriched Mexico, cause it to be one of the choicest countries in the world for colonization; but in order to attain this desirable object, it is requisite to make known those vital elements and fountains of wealth that yet remain unexplored, and with this purpose, the present work only leads the way to a series of publications destined for the information of those abroad, and written by Mexicans devoted to the prosperity of the Republic, and which will doubtless contribute to the development of so wished-for a result.

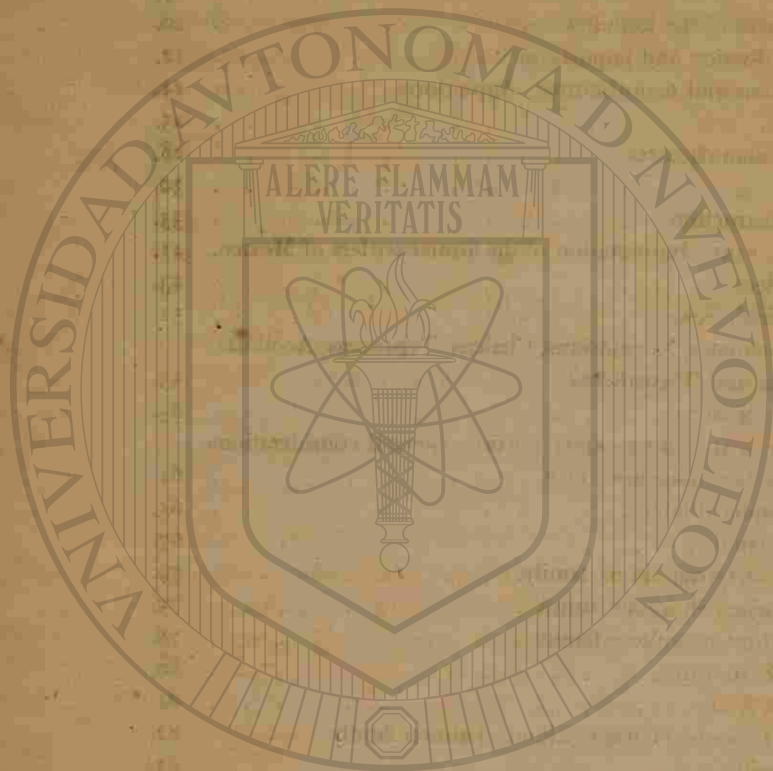
The first part of this work treats of the population in general and its classification; the second, of the immigration of the first settlers of Mexico; the third, of the ethnography and description of the different indigenous races, who are daily disappearing, and the last part is composed of the recapitulation detailing the numerical importance of these same people.

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DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE

# GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE REPUBLIC:

## ITS EXTENT AND BOUNDARIES

THE territory of the Mexican United States embraces an extent of 9,343,470 square kilometres, comprised within  $15^{\circ}$  and  $32^{\circ} 42'$  of Latitude North and between  $12^{\circ} 21'$  Longitude East and  $18^{\circ}$  West of the capital of the Republic; or  $86^{\circ} 46' 8''$  and  $117^{\circ} 7' 8''$  West of Greenwich. On the North it is bounded by the United States of America, with which, the River Bravo forms the line of division, at three leagues from its mouth, from whence it continues in the direction of that river by the States of Tamaulipas, Coahuila and Chihuahua, up to the parallel of  $31^{\circ} 47'$  of latitude North, near to the town of Paso del Norte; from this point for one hundred miles in a straight line to the West; thence to the South, to parallel  $31^{\circ} 20'$  Latitude North; the same parallel continuing from this point to  $111^{\circ}$  of longitude West of Greenwich; from here in a right line to a point on the River Colorado, situated at 20 miles below the confluence of the Gila with the same river; and from thence up the river as far as where the boundary line meets between the two Californias. On the South East, it is bounded by the Republic of Guatemala, whose limits have not yet been geographically defined. On the East, the coasts

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of the Republic are bathed by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, which extend themselves, without taking into account their development, 2,580 kilometres; of which 400 pertain to Tamaulipas, 640 to Vera Cruz, 190 to Tabasco, 360 to Campeachy and 990 to Yucatan. On the West, the coasts that are bathed by the waters of the Grand Ocean composing the Gulf of California, embrace a greater extent, or about 6,650 kilometres, and of these, Lower California measures from 2,900 to 3,000, Sonora 860, Sinaloa 510, Jalisco 500, Colima 160, Michoacan 130, Guerrero 460, Oaxaca 410 and Chiapas 220.

At the South Eastern part of Yucatan, the territory of Belize is situated, which is in possession of the English, in virtue of a permit for cutting timber. Its limits are stated in the treaty of peace entered into between the King of Spain and the King of Great Britain, signed on the 3rd of November 1783 and amplified on the 14th of July 1786. In these treaties, the rivers Hondo, Belize and Sibun appear as the limits.

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC

THE government of the Republic is representative, democratic and federal. The capital of the nation, which is also that of the District, is the residence of the Supreme powers of the Federation, which are distributed into Legislative, Executive and Judicial.—The Legislative power is composed of the general Congress, divided between the Chamber of deputies

and that of the Senate. The members of the assembly of deputies are elected in their totality by Mexican citizens, every two years, one for each 40,000 inhabitants and for every fraction exceeding 20,000. The Senate is composed of two Senators for each State and two for the Federal District, the election being indirect in the first degree, and proceeding from the respective legislatures of the States.

The Executive power is deposited in one sole individual, denominated "The President of the Mexican United States," whose election is popular, and for a term of four years, he entering upon his duties on the first of December. The President has the power of appointing six Secretaries of State; namely, for the Foreign Department, Home Department, Justice and Public Instruction, ("Fomento") or Public Works and Colonization, Finances and Public Credit, and War and Marine. The judicial power is constituted of the Supreme Court of Justice, and the District and Circuit Courts. The first is composed of eleven proprietary magistrates, four supernumeraries, one "fiscal" and one solicitor general. Their election is also popular, and for a period of six years.

The President of the Supreme Court is the Vice-President of the Republic.

The States of the Mexican Federation are free, sovereign and independent, in all that concerns their interior regimen, but united in conformity with the precepts of the Constitution founded upon the rights of man and social guarantees, sanctioned on the fifth of February 1857.



# POLITICAL DIVISION AND POPULATION

THE present population of the Republic reaches the cipher of 9,495,157 inhabitants, distributed in the following manner:

FRONTIER STATES.		
I	Sonora,	115,000
II	Coahuila,	104,137
III	Chihuahua,	190,000
IV	New Leon,	190,000
		599,137
STATES ON THE GULF OF MEXICO.		
V	Tamaulipas,	140,000
VI	Vera Cruz,	520,000
VII	Tabasco,	95,597
VIII	Campeachy,	86,000
IX	Yucatan,	300,000
		1,141,597
STATES ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN.		
X	Sinaloa,	200,000
XI	Jalisco,	980,000
XII	Colima,	65,827
XIII	Michoacan,	618,240
XIV	Guerrero,	325,000
XV	Oaxaca,	661,706
XVI	Chiapas,	195,000
		3,045,773
CENTRAL STATES.		
XVII	Durango,	185,000
XVIII	Zacatecas,	414,000
XIX	Aguascalientes,	90,000
XX	San Luis Potosi,	525,110
XXI	Guanajuato,	900,000
XXII	Queretaro,	166,643
XXIII	Hidalgo,	427,340
XXIV	Mexico,	663,557
XXV	Morelos,	150,000
XXVI	Puebla,	700,000
XXVII	Tlaxcala,	122,000
		4,343,650
	District of Mexico,	340,000
	Territory of Lower California,	25,000
		9,495,157

The last reports from the State Governments have given the greater part of the data for the formation of the preceding

census, but part of them not being of a very recent date, on account of some of the authorities not having presented the respective documents, from not being required to do so by their particular constitutions, I have found myself obliged to obtain the necessary information by means of calculation, taking for my basis, previous data and the changes in the population. The relations which affect the annual increase, vary in distinct parts of the Republic, owing to the differences of climate, elevation, topographical position of the places, dryness or humidity of the soil, and the abundance or scarcity of timber lands principally exercising their influence in the increment of the population, in the altitude and consequent pressure of the air. Doctor Jourdanet, in the work he so conscientiously published,\* established three divisions, denominating them: upper table lands, intermediate region and lower region, considering the first as at an elevation of more than 2,000 metres, the second from 800 to 2,000 metres and the third from the level of the sea to 800.

Comparing the census of the year 1810 with that of 1858, Doctor Jourdanet considers the annual increase of population in 3.06 for each 1,000 inhabitants in the upper table lands, and in 6.50 in the lower and intermediate regions; and again comparing the data relative to 1838 and 1857, he obtains 8.57 for each 1,000 in the first named region and 9.84 in the second.

Imperfect as may have been the data that served as the basis of these calculations, statistical results, as Dr. Jourdanet observes, contradict the general belief as to the superiority of the life of man in the higher regions, to those of the intermediate ones. The results he obtained cannot be considered as entirely correct. The imperfection of the census, and particularly that of 1810; the war of independence; the epidemics; the revolutions that have agitated the Republic; the foreign wars and other perturbing causes, as also the situation of the towns in which the difference of height changes suddenly; and the climatological conditions of each one of the three regions referred to, are so many circumstances that make a perfect calculation impossible.

\* Influence of the pressure of the air on the life of man. — PARIS, 1875.



The more recent data, as a natural result of the advancement of the people and of more reliable statistics, and principally as a consequence of the state of tranquillity, which the Republic has enjoyed during the last seven years, and but slightly disturbed, offers most certainly a better basis for obtaining an annual report as to the increase of population. Whether comparison be made as to the census of distinct periods, in relation to certain localities, or whether they all be confronted together; in any way whatever, a result will be obtained, analogous to those acquired by Dr. Jourdanet, even although the numbers indicated by the reports be very different. Those that have reference to the latest data ought to be considered as approaching nearest to the truth, from the fact that they have been ascertained during a period that has not been interrupted by disturbances interfering with the natural increase of population. After having regularly observed this increase for the space of fifteen years, and comparing the latest data referred to, I have obtained 1.10 per cent of annual increase in the upper region and 1.85 per cent in the intermediate and lower countries.

The differences of dress, customs and language, in the Mexican Republic, make known the heterogeneousness of its population, which may be divided into three principal groups; viz, the white race and more direct descendants of the Spaniards, the mixed race and the Indian race.

The habits and customs of the individuals who compose the first division, conform in general to European civilization, and particularly to the fashions of the French with reminiscences of the Spaniards. Their national language is Spanish; French is much in vogue, whilst English, German and Italian are greatly extended.

The bases of public instruction of which I shall speak hereafter, are composed of literary and artistical classical works, a knowledge of the Latin and Greek roots, and the great principles of science in all its branches. To the latter group in general, belong the exercise of various professions, and the vital element of capital, which forms the firmest support of agriculture, the arts, mining enterprises and trade, for the development of which, the Republic maintains close relations

with Europe and the United States. Existing these relations, as they really do exist, the unacquaintance as to our civilization in the old world, is incomprehensible, nor is it credible that some few books, written with inexactness and evil intention, should preponderate over the instructive pages and valuable conceptions emitted in good faith, by a Humboldt, a Burchart, a Sartorius or a Jourdanet. The works of many distinguished Mexicans are also deserving of praise, as they alone would suffice to make known the reality of our social status. The books that have been published in Europe, in regard to Mexico, well merit refutation from their misrepresentations, but as this is not the object of the present work, I shall only occupy myself with one publication, having tendencies to defame the character of the Mexican ladies, — a most despicable trait, — when, for their brilliant qualities, both in social and in domestic life, they are entitled to the highest commendation. The conjugal happiness enjoyed by many foreigners united to Mexican women affords the most solemn contradiction that can be given to similar detractors.

Mr. Figuier, in his work of "The human races," reproduces an engraving from another European publication, which represents the type of a woman of the people, and not that of one of the principal ladies of Mexico, as he supposes. This type is taken from a correct photograph by Mr. Jules Michaud and is the same that I have copied in No. 1 of my collection, plate No. II. I have also represented the type of another woman of the lower class who appears in Mr. Figuier's work as the servant of the former. On comparing Mr. Michaud's photograph with the engraving shown in the work referred to, I have formed the conviction that there has been bad faith in its reproduction. In the photograph, which has been transferred in the number referred to, a woman is seen of an agreeable and lovely figure, and not with the characteristics of the negro race, as she appears in the adulterated plate of Mr. Figuier's work. Moreover, this gentleman, who, doubtless, has produced many recommendable works, would have done well in abandoning the routine of classifying the Mexican nation among the red-skins.

It is to be supposed that the thirst of speculation has

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obliged the editors of similar writings, to excite curiosity, by presenting the most extravagant types, instead of those that in their equality with Europeans, would attract little or no special attention. Other works, such as those of Eyma and Chevalier, which recommend themselves by their elegance of style and just appreciations, tend but little, as an ultimate result, to enlighten their readers, being confined to the political object with which they were written. By these works it may be remarked that both the middling class as well as those of a higher position, in their style of dress, follow the French fashions, without any other alteration, than that which depends upon the time required by the Steamers to bring the plates and sketches of the latest changes.

As I have already mentioned, the nearest descendants of the Spaniards and those less mixed up with the native race in Mexico, belong by their complexion to the white race, for which reason their number, to-day, is more considerable than is supposed. The natural inclination of the mixed race to the habits and customs of their white brethren, as well as their estrangement from those of the natives, is the reason that many of them figure in the most important associations of the country, by their learning and intelligence, including in this large number, the worthy members of the middling classes. From this powerful coalition, the force of an energetic development naturally results, which is inimical to the increment of the indigenous race, not a few of the natives contributing to this fatal consequence, who by their enlightenment have ingressed into the body I have referred to, thereby founding new families with the habits and customs of the upper classes.

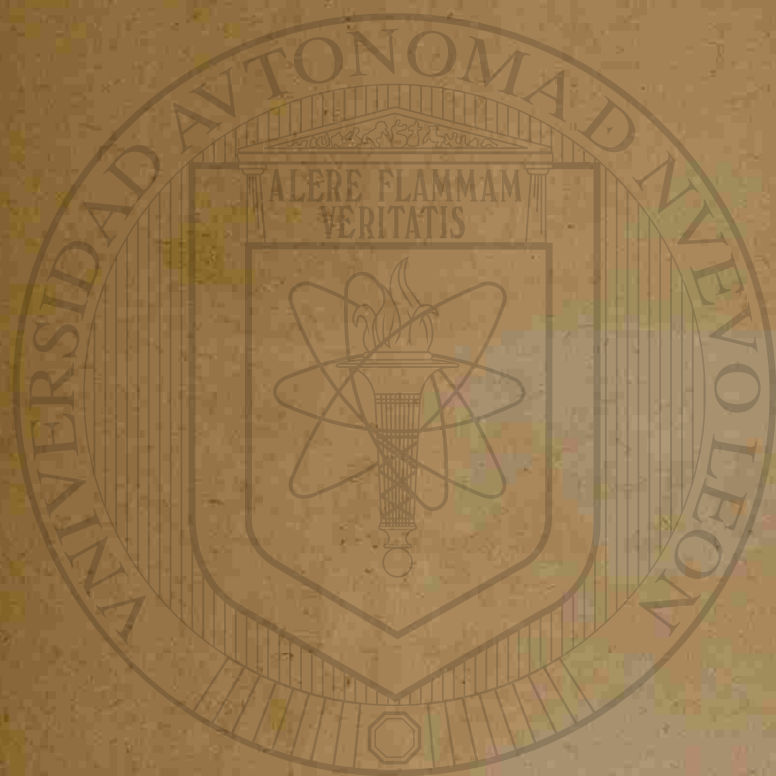
The white race is found to be specially concentrated in the larger centres of population, and is generally extended throughout the country, its individuals revealing in the towns, the large landed properties and the most humble villages, the social qualities that adorn them, by their politeness and agreeable manners, as well as by their hospitable character. If Mexican civilization is not known in Europe, the fault belongs to some of the foreign travellers, who have disdained to enter into relations with the intelligent classes of society.

Desiring to disseminate a thorough acquaintance with

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Mexican society, such as it really is, I fix myself by preference on all those qualities that characterize it and are entirely unknown abroad, without disowning, notwithstanding, the defects it is subject to and which are inherent to all the communities of the world. The distinguished German, E. Sartorius, who resided for many years in the country, and was without doubt, one of the few well informed foreigners in all concerning the Republic of Mexico, in his interesting dissertation, "The importance of Mexico for German emigration," treats of the character of Mexicans, circumscribing their defects and vices to their true limits. This learned German, whose recent death we sincerely deplore, expresses himself in the following terms:

"Doubtless, there are many names for all the mixed races, according to their origin from white and black, olive and white, olive and black, etc., but these are entirely insignificant politically and socially. There cannot exist any doubt, but that the Caucasian race, by its intelligence and capacity are those that prevail in the country; and therefore, speaking in common, the population is divided into only two classes, namely: white and colored.

"In Mexico there is no slavery: every one who treads its soil is free, even though he may have lived in a state of bondage. All the inhabitants are free and equal before the law. Only by judicial sentence can men be deprived of their civil active rights. Every individual, without distinction of color, is eligible to public employments, etc. This is established solely by the constitution and is practiced. Hereditary titles and dignities are abolished.

"On examining how these two bodies are divided in society, we find that the white population forms the class that fills the first rank in intelligence and position.

"According to numerical proportion, they compose the smaller fraction, especially in the Southern part of the Republic, whilst in the Northern sections, the white race predominates. Since the independence of Mexico, the prerogative of being a Spaniard by birth has no political importance, and as there are no genealogical trees to show distinction of blood many consider themselves as pure creoles who are probably of a



mixed race, but who from their color might readily pass for white people. It is for this reason that their number has increased to a million and a half. According to official data the number of Europeans reaches thirty thousand individuals.

"The character of the Mexican creole assimilates considerably to that of the Spaniard from whom he descends, although he possesses more of the vivacity of the Andalusians than the gravity of the Castilians or Gallegos. He is active, jovial, ardent and gay, although frequently careless and prodigal. In their social behaviour, the creoles, both well and poorly educated, have much natural politeness, and in their mode of life possess many private virtues that render them worthy of esteem. I must mention, particularly, the respect paid by children to their parents; their hospitality: their humane treatment towards their servants, who are considered as belonging to the family, and their protection of orphans. Immediately a child loses its parents, it is adopted by its godfathers, and if these should be wanting, a rivalry is excited between other families to shelter the abandoned creature."

The mixed race, like that of the whites, occupy in general the larger centres of population, where they apply themselves to mechanical arts or are engaged as servants; they are also found disseminated over the whole country, employing themselves in agricultural labors, in mining, in manufacturing, and in mule-driving. As we see, this race as a whole, constitutes the working population of the Mexican people. Their language is Spanish, intermixed with a multitude of provincial expressions, of very distinct and marked accents, and composed in a great part of words derived from the Indian dialects. The Catholic religion is that which predominates, but it must be observed that it is among this class of people that the Protestant sects principally acquire their proselytes. Sagacious, intelligent and with a special gift for imitation, this race is remarkable for the taste and perfect construction of its manufactures: in printing and book-binding; in carpenters and blacksmith's work; in sculpture of stone and wood; in hat-making, boot and shoemaking, in the manufacture of cotton, woollen and silk stuffs, and to conclude, in all

the mechanical arts, the workmen reveal their ability and intelligence. Among them, the first rudiments of well organized education are not unknown, such as reading and writing, and not a few have acquired other accomplishments as useful in the arts as serviceable to the citizen.

The desire of improvement in their social condition and in their education has developed itself amongst them, in a most remarkable manner; the idea of forming associations, (which in Mexico do not have as their object the interruption of public order, but fraternity and mutual benevolence,) has been already carried into effect by some of the societies of the working classes, in their late strikes. Not only in the larger cities, but in some of the second and third order, well regulated associations are being founded, at which the artisans congregate, in places chosen for the purpose, at times to attend lectures and to promote discussion upon some interesting subject, not even excepting matters of science, and on other occasions to hold evening parties with their families. Nearly all these societies have their libraries which contribute to their instruction, and others have established Schools and classes of declamation.

The same gentleman, Mr. Sartorius, to whom I have already referred, confirms what I have previously stated regarding the mixed race, and the good qualities of the Indians. The following are his words:

"It is in the mixed race ("mestizos") principally that we find the field-laborers and smaller cattle-raisers, called "rancheros," who form a very important and meritorious part of the population, and are the most robust, and constitute the mediocrity of the farming people. Proceeding from this class, we have the greater part of the miners, the large number of "arrieros" or mule-drivers, pedlars, artisans, servants of every kind in the city and in the country, the sailors and soldiers and the huntsmen. The Indians agree with them, much less than with the white people, and call them "coyotl," (a kind of jackal.) The Indians are much addicted to fermented drinks, whilst the others are partial to gambling, to which they give themselves up indiscriminately. In general the "mestizo" possesses many excellent qualities: he is



quick and discreet, industrious, intelligent, faithful in his master's service, hospitable and attentive.

The number of negros and mulattos is limited; they are only found on the coasts, employed as artisans, fishermen and day-laborers.

Every one who has lived in Mexico for any length of time and has been in contact with all classes, ought to bear testimony that the people in general are good, acute, dexterous, laborious, ingenious and disposed to any improvement. When it be considered how little has been done or is doing to give them an adequate moral and intellectual education, we cannot avoid being surprised at the good fund of probity that prevails amongst all classes. I have lived for many years among the Indians and mixed race, and never have I enjoyed greater security in my person and in my property and interests, than during the period referred to. What could not be done in Europe is practised in Mexico without any fear, and that is to trust to a poor and barefooted day-laborer large sums of money, to be carried by him alone, a distance of many leagues, and it never occurs that the wretched Indian commits a breach of confidence. Such a vice is, up to the present, an exception."

The individuals belonging to the mixed race are vigorous, especially in the Northern parts of the Republic. Owing to their lively and ardent temperament, they are inclined to pleasure and to certain amusements which like bull-fighting, are fortunately disappearing, in virtue of the laws that govern Mexicans; but what particularly distinguishes the character of this race especially and of Mexicans in general, is their tenacious and strenuous resistance to submit themselves to force, and their docility in ceding to persuasion. If these qualities had been seasonably known in foreign countries, the European intervention would never have been resolved upon. It was to this race that belonged the greater number of those who rose against Spain and maintained a tremendous struggle until gaining the independence of the country.

In their public rejoicings and festivities, this race reveals its gay and cheerful character, giving way to every species of amusements; their field sports consisting in "colederos"





or chasing and throwing bulls by the tail, but without practising, in these cases, the acts of cruelty that are customary in the iniquitous spectacle of public bull fights; but on the contrary the "rancheros" partake of this favorite diversion in order to display their dexterity in horsemanship and the use of the "lazo": then again they have their dances, which in the interior are of a distinct character from those of the coast, although, in all, the "jarabe" is one of the most attractive. In the 3rd group of plate II, the types of the people of Guadalajara are represented, one of the gayest of our populations, and who, with reason, presume to have no rivals in the rest of the cities of the Republic, for the grace and skill with which they execute this lively dance. The following notes will give an idea of the kind of music of the "jarabe." (See N° 1.)

The rhymes sung by those playing the instruments, suddenly interrupting the music of the "jarabe", are characterized by piquant and caustic ideas, frequently with allusion to some remarkable local or political event. The following music which is very popular in Mexico, will serve as a specimen: (See N° 2)

In the interior, in the country towns, as well as in the farming districts and mountain villages, the taste for music is exceedingly general, and here I must transcribe one of the most characteristic ballads: (See N° 3.)

On the coast, the dances called "de tarima" (a raised wooden floor) are of an original character, from the very moment of the invitation. This is carried out by means of loud detonations, which are repeated for the purpose of making known to the guests, (who are generally all the neighbours) the place of meeting. In the middle of a street, and but dimly lighted by the glimmering of a lantern, a "tarima" or wooden floor is placed, around which accommodations are prepared for the visitors. A harp, a guitar and a "jarana" (a guitar of small dimensions) are the instruments played, at whose first tones the couples ascend the "tarima" and prepare for dancing. The musicians play lively pieces, many of them adapted to pantomimic dances, but in general very exciting and sprightly, such as the "jarabe". The graceful-



ness and dexterity of the dancers consist in keeping time, and in imitating the melodies of the music, with the soles of their feet. The verses abound in wit, satire and caustical inuendoes, whose pith and pointedness are increased by the humor of the singers, their mode of expression, and their real or intentional hypocrisy, causing the hilarity of the listeners. On intoning their songs, they affect the greatest serenity, and with a perfectly stoic indifference give vent to their racy and pungent verses, closing their eyes as if overcome by slumber. On many occasions, extemporary improvisations are provoked, frequently on a given subject, when considerable nonsense is sometimes interspersed with sparkling drollery.

The "jarochos" of Veracruz, represented in group the 1st of Plate III, are those who give the greatest zest to this class of diversions. For a specimen of their festive and joyful musical compositions, see note N° 4.

Among the same group may be seen a creole woman from the "mesa de Mitlatloyuca," and the method they have of carrying water.

As in all the rest of the Republic, the mixed race of Yucatan is remarkable for their jovial character. It is there that the festivities called "baquerías," acquire the stamp of real frankness. Before dancing commences, pretended matrimonial engagements take place, in order that each individual may know who is to be his companion whilst these diversions last. These apparent contracts, authorized by the head of the house or the most elderly person present, give rise to disputes, jealousies and reconciliations all equally feigned, each one of those aggrieved, making his complaints to the person representing the parish priest,

The "jarabe" (the music of which I have given under note No. 1) and other tunes, especially one called the "toro" or bull (piece No. 5) of a lively nature, produce an extraordinary animation among the persons assembled; the whole ending by an imitation of the movements of a bull-fighter, sometimes "capoteando" or dancing before the bull with a cloak and at others pretending to escape from his onsets. On the conclusion of the ball, all the couples seek the open air

and proceed in an orderly manner to a place at some distance from the house, where a stake has been previously placed to which a young bull or heifer is tied.

A distinguished traveller, Mr. Stephens, portrays the impressions of his journey to Yucatan, in the most lively colors and particularly those he felt at a dance in Ticul. What attraction does a "mestiza" dance present to Mr. Stephens, enquires Mr. Nicoli in an article he published? What is this boisterous dance for the traveller? A fantastic diversion that excites the admiration and causes unspeakable rapture:—a woman or rather a sylph of an airy figure and more flexible than a reed, with a rich and pretty silk handkerchief carelessly thrown over her shoulders, a diminutive and exceedingly fine straw hat, scarcely touching the head and adorned with an infinity of ribbons forming a species of crown, a white dress embroidered, but so transparent that her fairy forms are seen exciting fascinating sensations and dreams of enchantment, her locks of matted hair tied with all the colors of the rainbow; here is a being that by her costume and grace might rival with a trastiberine of the October feasts at Rome.—Now if she plants herself in the centre of the saloon displaying that neat and diminutive foot that would be envied by a Thetis, what soul could resist—what heart would not kindle at similar allurements? With much reason Mr. Stephens was enchanted, and it is no wonder that it was with difficulty that he withdrew his sight from such voluptuous and graceful movements.



## OCCUPATIONS AND CALLING OF THE MEXICANS.

## AGRICULTURE.

THE Mexicans pertaining to the category I am referring to, are employed in agricultural labors, in working the mines, in mechanical arts and professions, and in various branches of manufacture, there now being established in the greater part of the States of the Republic, cotton, woollen, silk, earthenware, glass and paper factories, which will doubtless acquire greater importance in proportion to the depreciation of the value of silver in foreign markets. With regard to agriculture, which is the vital element in all countries, Mexico suffers from the scarcity of population, notwithstanding that the actual production is more than sufficient for the consumption; and there are some articles such as coffee, timber, dye-woods, tobacco, vanilla, etc., which are exported in abundance. If all the country were populated, even in proportion to Guanajuato and its territory, the census of the Republic would reach 58,000,000 of inhabitants, and then agricultural products would be so much greater, that they would constitute an element of enormous wealth.

Within the territory of the Republic there are more than 5,700 "haciendas" (landed estates) and 13,800 farms ("ranchos") and not a few other locations of immense extent. The value assigned to landed property, based simply on its valuation for taxes, is 161,397,311 dollars, the real value of which without any serious error, may be calculated at double the amount or 322 millions of dollars. To be convinced that this calculation is not exaggerated, it will suffice to observe that

in the amount named, each "hacienda" barely represents a value of \$45,000 and each "rancho" of \$5,000, without taking into account that of the streams, grazing lands, orchards and other rural property of less importance. The "maize" which is grown all over the territory, the wheat in the upper table-lands, the rice in the warm and damp sections, the coffee, vanilla, tobacco, sugar and cotton in the hot countries, and many other articles, among which may be mentioned the "agave Mexicano" with its abundant returns, constitute the principal branches of national agriculture, and it may be safely stated that the annual crops produce more than 100 millions of dollars. How immense would be the benefit to be derived by colonists employing their activity and intelligence in making such rich and extensive lands productive, under the influence of a delicious climate and in the midst of brothers and not of enemies, as it has been attempted to make believed abroad!

## MINING.

THE metalliferous productions in the whole extent of the Republic are extremely rich and varied, for which reason this country has been reputed as essentially mineral. A considerable part of the laboring population is engaged in working the mines, in the reduction of the ores and in coining silver and gold, and this forms the first branch of our exportation. The want of enterprize, as a consequence of our scarcity of inhabitants, impedes the natural development of mining, as well



as of agriculture and manufactures. The mineral districts that have been discovered since very remote periods, have produced immense amounts of money, and notwithstanding, it may be said that they are yet in their virgin state. The mines of Guanajuato which, without fear of contradiction, are those that have been the best worked and on the largest scale, still present enormous wealth. The soil of the State of Guerrero may be considered, according to the expression of one of our most celebrated mineralogists, as one extensive crust of silver and gold. In Sinaloa, the waters have submerged a rich treasure in the famous mine of "La Estaca." The States of Zacatecas, Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosi, Hidalgo, Mexico and Michoacan contain within their mountain ranges inexhaustible riches, and lastly the other States of the Mexican confederation, in every direction offer up to the assiduity of man an abundance of metalliferous deposits. Silver and gold ores are those that are principally worked in the mining regions, although other metals and mineral substances are found in great abundance, such as copper, iron, zinc, lead, magistral, antimony, arsenic, cobalt, amianthus and copers. Sulphur is also met with in large quantities in many parts, and that of the mountain of Popocatepetl is considered as exhaustless. Salt mines are plentiful, such as those of the "Peñon Blanco" in San Luis Potosi; those of the coast of Tamaulipas, the South of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Islands of the Gulf of California. The lake of Texcoco and its adjacent lands possess an inestimable supply of carbonate of soda. In every State there exist splendid quarries of white and colored marble; the alabaster at Tecali in the State of Puebla, has attracted great attention and may be advantageously compared for its beauty with the finest marble from the East.

Ways of communication will hereafter be the most fruitful germen of commercial prosperity, by facilitating the working of the extensive coal-fields, platina and quick-silver mines existing in the asperities of the mountainous portions of the country. Among the precious stones, we have the opal of hues as varied and beautiful as those of Hungary, the turquoise, garnet, topaz, agate and amethyst, besides a very

pure rock crystal. There is also a great variety of building stone.

The mineral districts that have been discovered in the Republic, up to the present, are very numerous, but they are in a great part paralyzed, for the causes referred to. Those that are actually working, according to the reports of the introduction of ores at the Assaying offices, are 117. The quantity of ore brought for assay in the period of one year amounts to 487,000 kilograms, of which 360,101 kilograms were reducible by the "patio" process, 99,330 by smelting and 27,569 by the barrel process, the whole representing a value of \$ 19,100,178 15. The real mineral production is even greater than the amount stated, if we bear in mind that in consequence of the law permitting the free exportation of mineral ore, many of the mines do not send their products to the assay office, but export them directly.

The annual coinage is on an average 20 millions and a half of dollars, the whole amount coined since the establishment of the mints up to 1875 being \$ 3,001,237,281 62, as follows:

	SILVER	GOLD	COPPER	TOTAL
In the Colonial period (1557 to 1821)	\$2,082,280,657 41	\$88,778,411 09	\$542,893 37	\$2,151,591,961 87
Since the Independence (1822 to 1875)	797,055,080 77	47,337,583 11	3,272,835 00	\$89,665,319 88
	\$2,879,335,738 21	\$136,115,994 20	\$546,168 37	\$3,001,237,281 62

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Apdo. 1625 MONTERREY, MEXICO



## ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

THE favorable disposition shown by Mexicans towards the cultivation of the arts, has attained a considerable progress, if we reflect upon the backward state in which they were found in the early years of the independence. The last industrial Exposition, in spite of the non-concurrence of some of the most important well-doing States, has convinced Mexicans that they can, by themselves, supply all their necessities, without requiring luxury. The printing and lithography can place before the world books and illustrations, worthy of acceptance to bibliographers. Carved work and filigree work in gold and silver yield in little or nothing to similar productions from abroad. The carriages and household furniture made in Mexico, with the exception of silk stuffs, can compete in taste and solid workmanship with the best that can be imported from foreign countries. In the fine arts, both in painting as well as sculpture and architecture, our Academy of San Carlos, reputed by travellers to be the first in America, displays the progress they have acquired. Some of these works will be exhibited to the public at the Philadelphia Exposition. The fabrication of textures as well as all other manufactures has increased astonishingly. Several factories, sugar mills and distilleries are established in the States of Mexico, Puebla, Veracruz, Jalisco, Morelos, Guerrero, Tabasco, Oaxaca and Yucatan: earthenware is made in Guanajuato, Mexico and Puebla; in the State of Jalisco and in the Valley of Mexico there are various paper-mills; also some glass factories in Mexico and Puebla: cotton factories in the greater part of the States: silk-factories in Guanajuato, Queretaro and Mexico. The number of cotton factories in the Republic exceeds 70, the States that may be considered as manufacturing districts being those of Puebla, Jalisco, Queretaro, Mexico and Veracruz.

The data I have been able to acquire regarding these factories, will be seen in the following statement:

STATES.	FACTORIES.	Number of Spindles.	Number of Looms.	Pieces produced yearly.	Kilograms of yarn.	Kilo. of cotton consumed yearly.
Puebla.	Guadalupe. . . .	2,100	48	12,500	43,723	92,049
	Santa Cruz . . . .	2,100	50	12,500	44,183	92,049
	Constancia. . . .	3,780	90	22,500	79,530	165,687
	Economia . . . .	2,520	60	15,000	53,847	110,459
	Patriotismo. . . .	8,500	200	50,000	174,893	368,197
	Beneficencia. . . .	2,000	50	13,000	46,025	92,049
	Mayorazgo. . . .	5,250	120	30,000	138,074	266,942
	De en Medio. . . .	6,300	150	40,000	124,266	230,123
	Amatlan. . . . .	1,550	36	9,000	32,217	69,037
	Teja. . . . .	1,550	36	9,000	32,217	69,037
	Asuncion . . . .	2,100	50	15,000	46,025	92,049
	Independencia . .	1,550	36	8,500	34,518	69,037
		39,300	926	237,000	849,518	1,716,715
Jalisco.	Prosperidad Jaliscoense. . . .	2,976	90	33,084	24,835	211,712
	Experiencia. . . .	792	"	"	41,422	50,627
	Escoba . . . . .	3,300	69	28,000	285,353	299,159
	Bellavista. . . .	5,832	156	24,886	"	138,073
	Janja. . . . .	4,768	112	37,992	35,979	329,075
		17,668	427	123,962	387,589	1,028,646
Queretaro.	Hércules . . . .	22,000	680	350,000	1,150,615	1,380,739
	La Purisima. . .					
District and State of Mexico.	Magdalena. . . .	13,000	376	156,000	167,530	598,504
	Tlalpam. . . . .	13,000	450	150,000	165,689	603,106
	Tizapam. . . . .	9,000	176	135,000	105,303	516,394
	Miraflores. . . .	7,000	262	108,992	46,046	372,799
	Abeja. . . . .	1,400	"	"	"	"
	Colmena . . . .	4,300	"	"	"	"
		47,700	1,264	549,992	484,568	2,090,803
Veracruz.	Cocolapan . . . .	7,000	400	75,000	415,467	429,870
	Libertad . . . .	2,000	81	1,944	118,973	"
	Victoria. . . . .	600	22	"	133,471	"
	Industria Jalapeña. . . .	4,028	57	19,992	124,266	"
	Lucas Martin . . .	3,984	"	"	124,266	161,081
	Rosario. . . . .	1,584	"	"	"	138,073
	Probidad. . . . .	1,056	"	"	"	67,195
		20,254	560	96,936	914,543	796,219



Besides "mantas" (cotton domestics) in some of these establishments and in other special factories, worked by the most improved machinery, other goods are manufactured, such as diapers, madapollans, muslins, bed ticks, satteens and linen drills, fine and coarse carpeting, counterpanes, fine spun and ordinary kerseymers, baize and other textures. In Puebla, Mexico, Jalisco and several places in other States, there are silk spinning and twisting factories, whose products, from the fact of the raw material being of superior quality, are preferred to those from abroad, amongst them, stuffs for ladies dresses, handkerchiefs, scarfs ("paños de rebozo") and every kind of lace and fancy trimmings. In Mexico are also manufactured kid gloves, cotton lace and hosiery, braces, cotton and woollen gloves, tape, embroidered ribbons and other articles of a similar kind, which with the exception of the first named, form a peculiar branch of industry among the Indians and some of those condemned to prison.

Gold and silver lace work and wire-drawing is carried on in a large scale, in every branch of this department, and of a superior style of workmanship and excellent quality. To conclude, in every town of any importance, there may be observed a great advancement in arts and manufactures.

#### COMMERCE.

THE Mexican United States maintain mercantile relations with England, France, the United States of America, Germany, Spain and the Island of Cuba, Belgium, Italy, Central America, the United States of Colombia, and the Equator.

According to the annual Reports the value of the impor-

tations may be estimated at 29,000,000 of dollars, in the following form:

Cotton and cotton goods, . . . . .	\$ 10,500,000
Groceries, wines and spirits, . . . . .	5,000,000
Articles free of duty, . . . . .	3,300,000
Hardware and ironmongery, . . . . .	2,100,000
Miscellaneous, . . . . .	2,000,000
Linen and hemp goods, . . . . .	1,400,000
Woollen goods, . . . . .	1,400,000
Mixed goods, . . . . .	1,400,000
Silks, . . . . .	1,000,000
Earthenware, porcelain, glass and crystal ware, . . . . .	600,000
Drugs and Chemicals, . . . . .	300,000
Total, . . . . .	\$ 29,000,000

This amount is imported from the following countries:

England, . . . . .	\$ 10,200,000
United States of America, . . . . .	7,500,000
France, . . . . .	4,780,000
Germany, . . . . .	3,800,000
Spain and the Island of Cuba, . . . . .	1,400,000
United States of Colombia, . . . . .	1,200,000
Central America, . . . . .	100,000
Italy, Belgium, and American Republics, . . . . .	20,000

\$ 29,000,000

The exportation amounts to 31,000,000 of dollars, as follows:

Gold and silver coin, . . . . .	\$ 24,000,000
Ores and minerals, . . . . .	1,800,000

Carried forward. . . . . \$ 25,800,000



Brought forward . . . . .	\$ 25,800,000
Hides and skins in general, . . . . .	1,800,000
Henequen, Ixtle and cordage, . . . . .	1,000,000
Timber and dyewoods, . . . . .	1,000,000
Coffee, . . . . .	600,000
Vanilla, . . . . .	400,000
Cochineal, . . . . .	300,000
Cattle, . . . . .	200,000
Tobacco, . . . . .	150,000
Orchilla, . . . . .	130,000
Fine pearls, . . . . .	110,000
Caoutchouc or Indian-rubber, . . . . .	100,000
Sarsaparrilla, . . . . .	90,000
Wool, . . . . .	90,000
Sole and upper leather, . . . . .	80,000
Indigo, . . . . .	80,000
Jalap root, . . . . .	80,000
"Coquito" (a small cocoanut), . . . . .	50,000
"Frijol" (beans), . . . . .	40,000
Cotton, . . . . .	30,000
Mother-of-pearl, . . . . .	25,000
Starch, . . . . .	25,000
Wheat, . . . . .	20,000
Other agricultural and industrial productions, . . . . .	100,000

32,300,000

These exports are made to the following countries:

England, to the amount of . . . . .	\$ 12,550,000
United States of America, . . . . .	12,000,000
France, . . . . .	5,000,000
Germany, . . . . .	1,500,000
Spain and the Island of Cuba, . . . . .	800,000
Central America, . . . . .	100,000
Italy and Belgium, . . . . .	50,000

\$ 32,000,000

## PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

As the grade of civilization of any country is principally to be inferred from its development in public instruction, I cannot close this chapter without explaining the progress made in this important matter. Señor Don José Díaz Covarrubias, the present Sub-secretary of the Department of Justice and Public Instruction, has just written and issued to the public a luminous book under the title of "Public Instruction in Mexico," in which abound the most conscientious remarks, demonstrating the increment acquired day by day in this element of such vital importance to universal progress.

The principle of obligatory education having been admitted, it is now in force in the greater part of the States of the Republic, penalties having been decreed for those who contravene the law and rewards for those who voluntarily observe the same, a stimulus which cannot fail to contribute towards the accomplishment of so praiseworthy a determination. Primary instruction in the schools of the Republic consists of the following branches: Reading, writing, Spanish grammar, arithmetic, tables of weights and measures, morality and good manners, and moreover in the girls' schools needle-work and other useful labors. In some of the States the study of geography, national history and drawing are also obligatory, whilst in the schools that are not supported by the Government, notions of algebra and geometry, elements of general and natural history, ornamental and lineal drawing and the French language, are taught.

The number of primary schools in the whole of the Republic reaches 8,103 instead of 5,000 that existed in the year 1870. Of the number referred to, according to the work of Señor Díaz Covarrubias, 603 are supported by the State go-



Brought forward . . . . .	\$ 25,800,000
Hides and skins in general, . . . . .	1,800,000
Henequen, Ixtle and cordage, . . . . .	1,000,000
Timber and dyewoods, . . . . .	1,000,000
Coffee, . . . . .	600,000
Vanilla, . . . . .	400,000
Cochineal, . . . . .	300,000
Cattle, . . . . .	200,000
Tobacco, . . . . .	150,000
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Fine pearls, . . . . .	110,000
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Sarsaparrilla, . . . . .	90,000
Wool, . . . . .	90,000
Sole and upper leather, . . . . .	80,000
Indigo, . . . . .	80,000
Jalap root, . . . . .	80,000
"Coquito" (a small cocoanut), . . . . .	50,000
"Frijol" (beans), . . . . .	40,000
Cotton, . . . . .	30,000
Mother-of-pearl, . . . . .	25,000
Starch, . . . . .	25,000
Wheat, . . . . .	20,000
Other agricultural and industrial productions, . . . . .	100,000

32,300,000

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United States of America, . . . . .	12,000,000
France, . . . . .	5,000,000
Germany, . . . . .	1,500,000
Spain and the Island of Cuba, . . . . .	800,000
Central America, . . . . .	100,000
Italy and Belgium, . . . . .	50,000

\$ 32,000,000

## PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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vernments, 5,240 by the municipal authorities, 378 by private corporations or individuals, 117 by the Catholic clergy, besides 1,581 private establishments that are not gratuitous and 184 not classified. These schools are attended by 350,000 scholars of both sexes.

Secondary instruction, as well as professional education, are under the charge of the State, with subjection to the programmes established by the law which prescribes as a mandate the liberty of education and professions.

In the Republic there are 105 establishments of secondary and professional instruction, in the following form:

#### BRANCHES OF EDUCATION.

Number of establishments.		Number of scholars.
I	Special preparatory school in the city of Mexico—Mathematics, geography in all its branches, physics, chemistry, natural history, logic, and moral literature, professorship, ornamental and lineal drawing and the French and English languages. . .	5,173
19	Civil colleges of jurisprudence.—Laws of nature, Roman, national, constitutional, administrative, international and marine laws and political economy. . .	771
20	Schools of medicine and pharmacy and all the branches concerning apothecaries, physicians and surgeons. . .	454
10	Schools for engineers.—Descriptive and analytic geometry, topography & hydraulics, algebra, infinitesimal computation, mechanics, practical geodesy and astronomy, applied chemistry, mineralogy, geology, construction of roads, rail-roads, bridges and canals; mechanical, architectural and topographical drawing. . .	251
50	Carried forward. . .	6,649

Number of establishments.		Number of scholars.
50	Brought forward. . .	6,649
2	Naval schools.—All concerning this branch. . .	13
3	Commercial schools.—Arithmetic, mercantile correspondence, book-keeping, geography and statistics, political economy, mercantile and maritime law, knowledge of merchandize and languages. . .	500
3	Academies of arts and sciences.—Spanish language, laws of the country, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, drawing and modelling, lineal and mechanical draughting, physics and notions of chemistry and mechanics, choral singing and various arts. . .	500
2	Agricultural schools.—Public health, zoology, physics and applied chemistry, natural history, descriptive geometry, and topography, veterinaryship, anatomy, etc. . .	83
2	Academies of fine arts.—Drawing, painting, sculpture and engraving. . .	700
2	Conservatories of Music and Declamation.—All the matters annexed to the art, from the first scale to harmony and composition, arithmetic, Spanish grammar, French and Italian, geography and history, declamation, acoustics and phonography, physiology and treatment of the voice and hearing, study of the ancient and modern stage and dramatic literature, prosody and poetry, history of the middle and modern ages, mythology, esthetics and fencing. . .	637
1	Military College.—Besides all the preparatory studies, military science in all its branches. . .	200
65	Carried forward. . .	9,282



Number of  
establishments.

65

24

Brought forward. . . . .

Conciliary Seminaries supported by the Catholic clergy. — Latin grammar, logic, metaphysics, ethics, mathematics, geometry and in some establishments chemistry and natural history, modern languages, notions of Greek, theology and jurisprudence, canonical and moral law. . . . .

Blind school. — Reading and writing by special methods, Spanish grammar, arithmetic (theoretical and practical), universal geography and geography and history of Mexico, notions of geometry and astronomy, French, morality, vocal and instrumental music, printing, book-binding, carpenter's work, shoemaking and turning. . . . .

Deaf and dumb school. — Spanish language, written especially by means of a manual alphabet, catechism and religious principles, elements of geography and general and national history, arithmetic, horticulture and gardening for the boys, needle-work and embroidery for the girls, book-keeping and drawing. . . . .

14

Secondary schools for girls — Mathematics, cosmography, geography, domestic medicine, history and chronology, book-keeping, domestic economy and duties of woman in society, natural, figured and ornamental drawing, manual labors, horticulture and gardening, music, the French and Italian languages. . . . .

105

Adding these results to those obtained in respect to primary instruction, the following will be the data acquired: 8,208 educational establishments with 364,809 pupils.

Number of  
scholars.

9,282

3,800

40

24

1,663

14,809

Altogether these establishments are attended with the following annual expenses:

Primary gratuitous school, supported by the authorities. . . . . \$ 1,632,436  
Private schools, by individuals. . . . . 1,188,168  
Secondary and professional schools, by the authorities. . . . . 1,100,000

Total. . . . . \$ 3,920,604

The number of professors and employees in public instruction is 8,770.

Annexed to the establishments referred to there are 8 model schools.

285,509 males and 79,300 girls receive instruction, which proportion is not to be wondered at if we bear in mind that a great number of girls are educated in their own houses, for which reason there are no statistics in regard to them.

There are 20 public libraries containing in the whole 236,000 volumes, and private libraries containing from 1,000 to 8,000 works are innumerable; and there are some with as many as 20,000 and collections of manuscripts and books upon history and travels, literature, law, biography, eloquence, encyclopedias, classic authors, mathematics, physical sciences and antiquity relating to America, Asia, Egypt and Nubia.

The most remarkable museums of the Republic are those of antiquities in Mexico, Campeachy, Puebla and Merida:

Those of paintings in Mexico, Oaxaca and Puebla;

Those of natural history in Mexico and Guadalajara.

The National Museum of Mexico, to which is annexed that of natural history, contains a rich collection of Mexican antiquities, hieroglyphics, manuscripts, arms, utensils, idols, jewels and every species of ornaments. The Museum of Natural History at the Mining College, now the School of Engineers, is composed of two cabinets; in the first there is a well classified collection of geological specimens and another of zoology, which contains a large assortment, consisting principally of birds and insects; in the second are found two



collections of minerals from Europe and Mexico, arranged according to the chemical-mineralogical system of Berzelius, followed by the work that the learned professor Don Andres del Rio wrote for the use of the students of the school referred to.

The Academy of San Carlos is one of the most notable institutions of the city of Mexico. This edifice contains several galleries where numerous original and valuable paintings are to be admired. Among those that most excel for their merit are the following: The seven virtues from the Lombardian school, a painting attributed to Leonardo de Vinci; Saint John of God, by Murillo; the widow Queen by Carreño, three paintings from the school of Leonardo de Vinci; the Olympic games by Charles Vernet; an episode of the Deluge by Coglietti; the supper at Emmaus by Zurbaran; Saint Jerome by Alonso Cano; Saint Sebastian attributed to Van Dycke; a virgin by Pietro de Cortona; another virgin by Perugino; Saint John the Baptist from the Spanish school and another by Ingres; an odelisque woman and Armenian bishop by Decaen; four large pictures of the Sevillian school; one of the Venetian school attributed to Paul Verone's: two oval paintings representing Saint Barbara and Saint Catharine by Guido Reni; four large classical landscapes by Markó, other works of Podesti and Silvagni and several of the Flemish and Dutch schools.

In the other saloons are to be seen the paintings of some of the most proficient students of the Academy, amongst which attention is principally attracted to the Saint Charles Borromeo by Piña; a Christ and Abraham's sacrifice by Rebull; Jesus Christ journeying to the village of Emmaus, by Sagredo; the captivity of the Hebrews and Noah's ark by Ramirez; Cristopher Colon before the Catholic Sovereigns, by Cordero; the Angel at the Sepulchre, by Monroy; Dante and Virgil by Flores, etc.; the most of these artists being pupils of Mr. Clavé, who on his departure for Europe left us a grateful memento, in his magnificent painting "Crazy Queen Jane" which appears among the other works referred to.

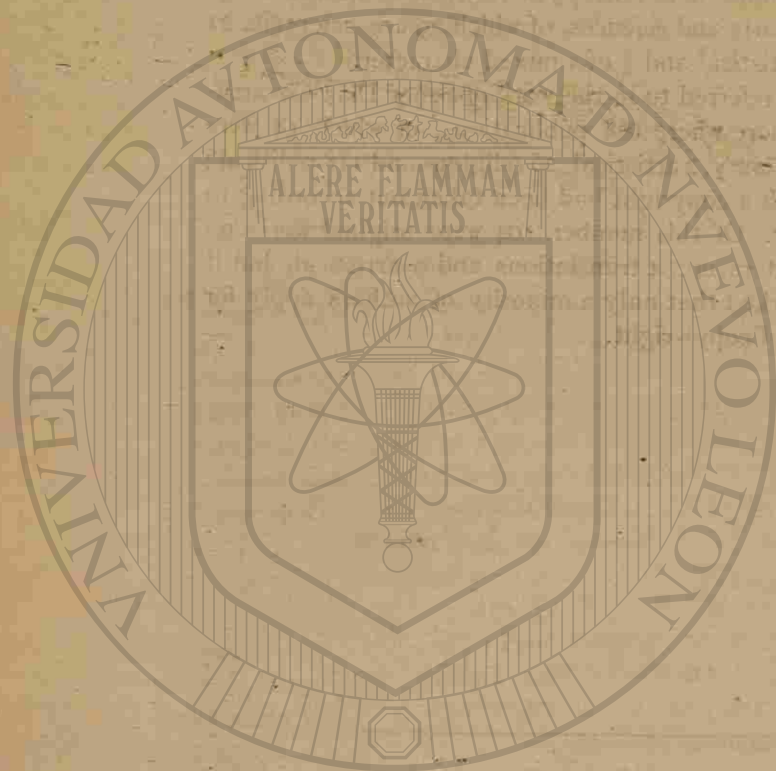
To conclude, some of the saloons are embellished with very remarkable paintings by ancient Mexican artists, such

as Cabrera, Aguilera, the Juarez family, Ibarra, Arteaga, Vallejo, Echave and others.

In the Republic there exist 73 institutions dedicated to the cultivation of arts and sciences, of which 29 are scientific, 21 literary, 20 artistical and 3 of a mixed character.

In the year referred to in the work of Señor Diaz Covarrubias (1874) there were 168 publications, of which 18 were scientific, 9 literary, 2 artistical, 26 religious and 118 political; those for which a copyright had been taken out according to law, being 117. Of this number, 104 were original works on science and literature, 4 translations and 9 artistical, but it must be remarked that only a minority of authors apply for the privilege of copy-right.





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## HISTORICAL PART

### IMMIGRATION

#### OF THE ANCIENT POPULATORS OF MEXICO

NO one, up to the present, has drawn aside the veil that conceals the history of the populators of Mexico, previous to the Toltecs. The ruins of ancient edifices of a growing importance, met with from the North to the South, and the distribution of dialects in this part of the American continent, reveal a series of immigrations, that manifest in my opinion both the successive arrivals of certain tribes in search of lands adapted to their purposes, and the places where they definitely fixed their residence, constituting themselves into communities. Neither in America nor in Europe does either history or tradition discover the origin of their first populators. In the New Continent as well as in the old one, the remains of grand monuments are found demolished by the lapse of centuries, which only serve to indicate the perseverance of the ancient and unknown generations. What has been revealed to us by the magnificent ruins of Palenque and Comalcalco in Chiapas and Tabasco — by those of Uxmal and Chichen-Itza in Yucatan and those of Mitla in Oaxaca? Only



the existence of former and occult generations, very superior in civilization to those of which history speaks to us.

Various historians, basing themselves on the interpretation of the monumental hieroglyphics and those of the indigenous papyrus, have attributed the origin of the races that populated the rich regions of Anahuac to seven families that immigrated successively from North America, all speaking one common language, the Nahuatl or Mexican; but history neither reveals the primitive derivation of those races, nor does it open up the mystery of the multiplicity of tongues and their dialects of so diverse a character.

According to the descriptive and comparative tables of Pimentel, none of the 108 languages which he has classified have any analogy to the Asiatic tongues, nor even to Othomi, which from consisting almost entirely in monosyllables and from its construction, was thought to be similar to the Chinese.

Notwithstanding, the identity of the language of the Esquimaux indicates the communication between Asia and America, a circumstance, in my idea, which is demonstrated in the form of our ancient monuments and the art of their constructions. The "tumulos" or sepulchres—according to Sir John Lubbock in his work "Prehistoric man"—are found scattered over all Europe from the Atlantic coasts to the Ural mountains and covering a great part of the immense steppes of Asia from the Russian frontiers to the Pacific and from the plains of Siberia to those of Hindostan. In a similar manner, monuments of a like nature are found disseminated from the banks of the Gila to those of Usumacinta and from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific, the pyramids on this side, like those on the other, displaying the most admirable development of the same idea.

In my "Essay of comparison between the Egyptian and the Mexican pyramids," I did not call attention solely to the form of the monuments, but more particularly to their specialities and details both interior and exterior, and from their undeniable analogy I deduced the identity of artistic knowledge between one and the other people, but without wishing that from my conclusions the inference should be drawn

of the Egyptian origin of the first populators of Mexico, as some have pretended to attribute to me, from simply reading the title of my work.

If we carefully examine the color of the skin, the configuration of the cranium and the features of the individuals of the Tartar race and the Mexican race, we shall find such a similarity between them that we can scarcely avoid inclining our opinion towards the belief, already somewhat generalized, that the latter descended from some of the former. Perhaps a really physiological study in this respect might throw some light on our hallucination.

I do not pretend to adduce these arguments with the view of convincing those who entertain contrary opinions to mine in regard to the origin of the primitive American races; the object by which I am guided is solely to demonstrate the obscurity of history and the distance that separates us from the manifest triumph of one of many conjectures.

With the view of presenting the greatest amount of data respecting the population of the Republic, and treating of the indigenous race, as unfortunate as it is deserving of an attentive study, it may be deemed proper to refer to some of the ancient historical notions, if only with the object of learning their origin.

The ancient history of Mexico commences with annals of the Toltecs; nevertheless it is believed that the country was inhabited previously by a wild people, amongst whom the "Olmecas" and "Xicalancas" and even the "Othomies" have been cited, as being considered among the very first inhabitants of the Mexican territory.

The hieroglyphical inscriptions found amongst the ruins of the ancient edifices, which are generally characterized by their pyramidal form, have not even revealed the epochs of the construction of these monuments, nor the nations to which they belonged. As the former Mexicans were ignorant of the existence of any tribes previous to that of the Toltecs, the construction of the pyramids of Teotihuacan, Papantla and Cholula was attributed by them to the latter, whilst some historians ascribed them to other nations of greater antiquity. If therefore, history teaches nothing certain in regard

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to those monuments, as of much less antiquity, how can we avoid being at fault on contemplating the magnificent structures of Mitla, Palenque and Uxmal, which for their style, solidity and decorations excite well merited admiration and profound curiosity?

The Toltecs, if we are to judge by the statement of Ixtlilxochitl, were informed as to the creation of the world, the deluge, the building of the tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues. They held as a fact that the world had been destroyed three times and regenerated on an equal number of occasions, denominating each destruction as an "age" or darkening of the sun; the first catastrophe happening with the deluge, which they called "sol" or epoch of the waters—the second was by a hurricane, which they called "sol" or epoch of the wind, and the third by an earthquake to which they gave the name of "sol" or epoch of the earth, and lastly awaited the complete destruction of the world by fire.

On the Toltecs being expelled from their country, *Huehuetlapallan*, a place situated, according to Humboldt, towards the North West Coast of America, near 42° of Latitude North, they commenced their peregrination towards the South, in the year 596 of the vulgar era, led by their chiefs, and stationing themselves at various places and founding towns and cities, but without meeting for some time with an appropriate spot for their purposes. After more than a century of wandering, they arrived at Tollancinco, where they remained for 20 years, and founded the city of Tollan, which was the metropolis of their nation.

According to some writers, Tula, under the name of *Manhe-mi* already existed, and owes its rebuilding and its new name to the Toltecs, and the same occurred with the pyramids of Teotihuacan, which site was chosen by them for their religious ceremonies. The annals of this nation, then preponderating by its institutions and civilization, show that the place of their departure was at the city of *Tlachicatzincan* in the Huetlapallan country and that they effected their immigration, sailing by the Gulf of California and the coasts of Jalisco, until they reached Tachtepec on the borders of the Pacific.

According to the notices of Ixtlilxochitl, on the Toltecs founding their monarchy, there already existed in the regions of Panuco and Huexotla, a savage tribe of the "Chichimecas," to whose chief they addressed themselves, soliciting a prince of that race to be elected as their king; a flattering proposal by which the Toltecs hoped to secure themselves against the ferocious instincts of that barbarous people.

The same *Ixtlilxochitl* in another part of his history relates that the first king was chosen from among the Toltecs, and this is the most probable. The catalogue of the Toltec kings began with *Chalchihuetlanetzin* ("precious stone") in the year 667 of the vulgar era, and it was then that the law of succession commenced to rule designating the period of 52 years for each reign, the same law providing that if the monarch should die before the expiration of that term, a Republican government should be adopted for the time wanting, on the conclusion of which the legitimate successor should take charge of the destinies of the country.

It is a remarkable fact that all the Toltec monarchs completed the time fixed by law, with the exception of *Mitl*, whose reign was prolonged for another seven years, in virtue of the meritorious conduct and good qualities that adorned him.

On the death of the first king at nearly completing the fifty-two years, he was buried with all his insignias, the highest honors being paid to him.

In 719, *Ixtliquechahuac* or *Ixacateclatl*, as the legitimate successor, came to the throne. During his reign he continued the aggrandizement of the nation and was succeeded by prince *Huetzin*. In 1771, a little before the death of *Ixtliquechahuac*, the astrologist *Huetmatzin* in his latter days collected in a large volume which was called the *Teoamoxtli* or divine book, all the rites, sacrifices and ceremonies of the Toltec people, the laws, maxims and sentences, the catalogue of kings and potentates and the astrological, artistic and scientific rules; in one word, all the prosperous and adverse events, forming in this way the history of this great people, whose ruin he also predicted.

At the death of *Huetzing* (823) his son *Totepeuh* inheri-



ted the throne, his reign being remarkable for the peace and tranquillity enjoyed by the nation. Huetzin was succeeded by prince Necaxoh (875) and the latter by his son Mitl, the wisest of the Toltec kings, during whose dynasty the monarchy reached its greatest eminence. Enlightened and prudent, he dictated memorable laws and extended his authority to a very great distance; many villages, towns and cities were founded in his time, among which Teotihuacan (the place of adoration) which already existed, excelled the most, and being as it was the grand sanctuary of the Toltecs, it surpassed Tula in the grandeur of its temples, monuments and power. Teotihuacan was not only renowned for its edifices and extent, but also for its lofty pyramids, of which the largest was dedicated to the Sun and the smallest to the Moon, and perhaps the innumerable "tlateles" to the stars, if we consider the emblematic character of the people we refer to. These monuments, as I have already mentioned in another article, were in my opinion mausoleums and altars.

To counterpoise the supremacy that Teotihuacan had acquired over the capital, Mitl raised the magnificent temple of "la Rana" goddess of the waters, enriching its interior with ornaments of gold and precious jewels, and with the image of the goddess, made from an emerald. In Tollocan palaces were erected whose prepared stone represented, by means of hieroglyphics, the most remarkable events in the Toltec history. Palaces of an analogous style were built in Cuanahuac and other places, to which his dominion extended.

The Toltecs excelled in arts and sciences, and were so skilful therein, that many interpret the word toltec by artist, although the probability is that it means a native of Tollan. They worked both in gold and silver, making very curious articles from these metals; they carved the hardest rocks and polished precious stones. They also excelled in the sciences as proved by their astronomical labors, which gave them for result the exact computation of time, which was qualified by the distinguished astronomer Laplace, as original. They divided the year into eighteen periods of twenty days adding other complementary five days called (nememteni) or useless, this completing the solar year of 365 days; but as this exceed-

ed the period of 365 days, by a little less than six hours, they formed an age of 52 years which they called *Huilimolpia*, bundle or link of years, and the age or century (*Huehuetilixtli*) of 104 years, adding thereto 25 days, hence resulting a difference of only one day in each 538 years.

Agriculture was prosperous, the Toltecs dedicating themselves principally to the cultivation of maize, chile, beans and other products, as well as to cotton which gave them good returns. The women spun and wove domestics, plain, twilled and quilted, and with colored patterns and figures.

The Toltecs were very intelligent in architecture and constructed their buildings with cut stones, packed at times one above another and at others set in mortar; they perpetuated their annals by means of hieroglyphic characters, and finally in their laws, their habits and customs, they exhibited an advanced state of civilization.

In their religious ceremonies, they excluded human sacrifices, with the exception of those they performed in honor of *Tlalotl*, the God of waters, whom they worshipped on the summit of one of the highest mountains of the Sierra Nevada, to the East of Texcoco; and that made to *Tonacatecuhtli*; offering up to the first six maidens, and to the second a criminal who was broken to pieces by the projecting points of revolving stones.

The laws prohibited polygamy and decreed that the monarchs could not contract a second marriage; and courage was as much admired in the men as modesty in the women.

A community which, like that of the Toltecs, based their stability on the observance of the law, as shown by their customs and the legitimate succession of their kings, could not be otherwise than prosperous and powerful.

Wisdom and prudence guided Mitl during his reign, and as an acknowledgement of such commendable qualities, the law was broken for the first time, and he continued on the throne to the day of his death, which happened 7 years after the expiration of the 52 years, and for the same merits, the widow queen Huihtlaltzin continued in power (year 986) with the acquiescence of her son Tecpancalzin.

On the death of queen Huihtlaltzin, four years afterwards,



(year 990) her son, the prince, held the reins of government, assisted by the nobility, but during his sway, the decline of the monarchy had its beginning.

A noble Toltec, called Papantzin, had discovered the method of extracting the juice from the "maguey" (agave Americano), and anxious to make his sovereign a present of that liquor, he with this purpose, made his daughter accompany him, — a noble maiden as lovely as her name, as she was called "the flower" (Xochitl). The lady presents herself and offers the beverage to the king, which pleased the sovereign exceedingly, not so much for the present as for the beautiful personage that brought it. He immediately conceived a violent passion for her and preoccupied himself solely in the contemplation of a plan to obtain the sinister ends, he desired. He took leave of the father and the daughter, but requesting them to repeat their favor, and intimating that on again doing so, it should be by the captivating Xochitl alone. She returned once more to the royal palace, but never to go back to her home. Seduced by the praises and offers of the monarch, she was prevailed upon to accede to his importunities and resign herself to live in the place of recreation, assigned to her by the king, who to screen his proceedings sent to say to Papantzin that wishing to unite his daughter to a king, one of his vassals, he had placed her under the care of a matron to give her a proper education. Some time passed over, when either from suspicion or from a desire to see his daughter, Papantzin resolved to seek her place of abode. After many enquiries and some bribery, he attained his object, and was introduced to some gardens where the lady was just at that moment, with an infant in her arms. Not approving of the disloyalty of his king, he addressed his daughter in these words: "*Has the king by chance, placed you here to play with children?*" Ashamed and tremulous, she confessed her weakness, and the noble Papantzin decided immediately on presenting himself to the king, demanding satisfaction for this affront. The following day, on Tecpancaltzin's listening to the complaint of the old man, he consoled him by promising that he would not take a wife to himself, and that the son of Xochitl (who had received the name of Meconetzin or son of

the "maguey") should inherit him. On the expiration of the term of the fifty two years of his reign, Tecpancaltzin fulfilled his promise, by having his natural son Meconetzin sworn in as king, who took the name of Topiltzin, and became the apple of discord in the Toltec kingdom.

The reign of this prince was made remarkable by the excellence of his government in the earlier years, by his dissipation and dissolute life in those following and by the energetic and appropriate measures he dictated ultimately, with the view of redeeming his faults. His disorderly conduct contaminated all classes of society and libertinage was such, that the priests in spite of their vows of chastity, lived publicly with some of the principal women: vice and the greatest scandal reigned every where, a state of disorder which was rapidly precipitating the nation towards an abyss, in the same degree that industry, labor and respect for the law, had previously flourished in all their splendor.

To this commencement of the inevitable decay of the people, other calamities followed as a just punishment of their crimes: at times the heavens sent down heavy rains that inundated the lands and destroyed the crops, and at others they were deprived of water, so that a frightful drought joined to the burning rays of the sun ruined the harvests and even the grain that had been stored in the granaries.

To crown their misfortunes, the lords of Xalisco, of the same race, alleging rights to the throne of Toltan and believing the law to have been violated by the exaltation of Topiltzin, invaded the possessions of this monarch's dominion with a large army. Neither the friendly expressions of the noble ambassadors sent to meet them by the king, nor the rich presents which, in his name, they offered them, sufficed to make the invaders desist from their intention, but on the contrary they continued their march until they penetrated the precincts of Tollan.

The persuasive conduct observed by Topiltzin, towards the monarchs of Xalisco, with the view of inducing them to abandon their undertaking, was fruitless, nothing more being procured from their tyrannical pretensions than a truce of ten years, which was conceded in order that preparations might



be made for defense. This concession is not to be wondered at from a race that esteemed bravery and loyalty in all their worth. This compact gave as a first result the immediate withdrawal of the invading forces.

On the conclusion of the time stipulated, which was not misspent by the illustrious Topiltzin, he prepared for war, and posted his troops advantageously and selected the plains of Tultitlan as his headquarters. The enemy's hosts had scarcely borne in sight, when the advanced guard of the Toltec army rushed to attack them. The first battle was commenced, giving rise to a series of sanguinary struggles that lasted three years, the Toltecs, in the midst of all, sometimes conquerors and sometimes vanquished, displaying unheard of traits of bravery. The first division of the army having been completely routed, Topiltzin advanced with the aged Tecpancaltzin, at the head of their forces, the lovely Xochitl leading the ladies, who like a body of amazons, were also prepared for the combat. One and the other of the disputants rush to the struggle with the greatest bravery and courage; the presence of their sovereigns animates and inspires the warriors who with their unerring arrows spread death and desolation on all sides, and even the ladies themselves and the women of the soldiers, imitating the example of queen Xochitl, penetrate into the midst of the heat of the battle, and fight hand to hand with the enemy's men. The battle lasts for three consecutive days and nights without suspension of hostilities, but not without the enemy's receiving fresh reinforcements, while the Toltecs were not aided by any new warriors. The forces of the latter becoming exhausted by so desperate a struggle, the enemy's superiority rose in proportion, and they gradually gained ground. At last, the victory was decided in favor of those of Xalisco, and the Toltec army having dispersed, took refuge in the mountains and lakes, only a small body of the army remaining which commenced its retreat, led by its two kings and queen Xochitl. This gallant army, closely persecuted and always resisting, reached Xaltocan; from thence passed to Teotihuacan, and afterwards proceeded towards the mountains of the South by Totolapan. The king Tecpancaltzin and queen Xochitl, with some of

their vassals, were overtaken before arriving at Tultecaxochitlaltam, which I suppose was at the hills of Tlalmanalco, and had to struggle man to man, the king perishing at the hands of his enemies, without his great age serving him as a protection, and the queen, without any respect being paid to her bravery, her sex or her beauty. This was the tragical end of a heroine worthy of being celebrated in poetry. Topiltzin took refuge in a cave at Xico, from whence he escaped after the retreat of his enemies, marching to Tlalpalan, which as I believe, was the kingdom of Aculhuacan, where he decreed certain laws which were confirmed by Netzahualcoyotl, and lived much esteemed until the day of his death.

The rest of the Toltecs were disseminated over different parts; some of them left for the coasts of the Southern Ocean and Cuauhtemalan, and others went to Tehuantepec, Coatzacoalco, Campeachy and Xacolotlan.

It was in this way that the monarchy now disappeared, which had left such fair pages in history; pages which I have compiled from Don Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl.

More than an age (of 52 years) after the destruction of the Toltecs, the numerous and ferocious tribe of "Chichimecas" arrived in the valley of Mexico, who, guided by their king Xolotl had emigrated from their country, Amaquemecan, a place situated in the Northern regions of Anahuac. Huasteca, Cohuatlicamac and Tepenene bore traces of their transit, as also other points known by the name of Nopohualco or Contadero (counting-place) and these were the places where they rested some days to pass review. The king Xolotl, with the view of ascertaining the number of his people, at a given spot, ordered the number of stones to be counted, of which one had been thrown down by each individual. During their peregrination, they found the cities and towns, such as Tula and Teotihuacan, which had formerly been prosperous and flourishing, now sad, deserted and in ruins, and on their arrival at the Valley of Mexico, the Toltecs were disseminated over places afar off, such as Tehuantepec, Quauhtemalan, Teocotlan, Coatzacoalco and Tiauheohuac, and reconcentrated in a larger number in Quauhtitenco, Chapoltepec, Totoltepec, Tlazalan, Cholollan, Tepexomaco and very particular in



Colhuacan, which formed a kingdom from whose name came that of the "Colhuis."

The Chichimecas were composed of a tribe of hunters and barbarians, principally inhabiting in caverns.

Their arms were the bow and arrow, and the ancient culverin, which drove the projectile with the greatest impetus on being blown with force. They were of a medium stature but strong; of a darkish color, with black, thick and coarse long hair, and with but little beard. They dressed themselves in the skins of animals, which although cured, still preserved the hair, and with these made their "sayos" or corslets, a kind of leather casque or helmet, and the shields for their defense. The chiefs adorned their casques with colored feathers and small pieces of silver or common metal, roughly made, as also with the parasitical plant we now call moss, but which they called *pachitli*. Lastly, various trinkets of ordinary stone girded their breasts, arms and calves. The women made use of similar skins, encircling them from their waist downwards, and covering the upper part of their person with the *huipilli* of cotton, the only texture woven by them.

The Chichimecas fared upon wild vegetables and raw game, without occupying themselves in any kind of cultivation. The sovereign wore a crown of laurel with the plumage of *Quetzalli*, in the time of peace, and of oak leaves with eagle's feathers in the time of war.

The king Xolotl knowing the Toltec civilization, dictated such prudent measures from his establishment in the Valley, that they could not fail to redound to the advantage of his people. Various chiefs, by his orders, scouted over the country in every direction, in search of the Toltecs, whom they treated with the greatest kindness and consideration: the independence of their kingdom being conceded to those of Culhuacan, without any other condition than that of paying a small tribute to the Chichimeca sovereign. These dispositions gave the desired result; with the union of the families, the Chichimecas acquired the most useful attainments in arts and commenced to abandon their barbarous customs and the habit of dwelling in caves. A part of this tribe, neglecting this civilizing element occupied a large territory to the North

West of the Valley, continuing in their savage state Westward of the Othomies.

Eight years after the foundation of Tenayuca, according to Clavijero, and an age (52 years) thereafter, according to Ixtlilxochitl, six civilized tribes arrived successively from the North, under the name of Nahuatlacas: namely the *Xuchimilcas*, *Chalcas*, *Tepanecas*, *Acolhuas*, *Tlahuicas* and *Tlaxcaltecas*, the Aztecs having separated from them at Chicomoztoc (seven caves), a site that Clavijero believes he finds to the South of Zacatecas, in the ruins we know by the name of *La Quemada*. The Xuchimilcas after exploring the circuit of the Great Lake, fixed their residence at the place which to-day bears the name of the South of the Valley, and extended their dominion (without meeting with any opposition, so feared were they by the Chichimecas), as far as Tochimilco on the Southern slope of Popocatepetl and, according to Father Duran, comprising the places known by the names of Ocuituco, Tetela Ameyalpam (Tetela del Volcan) Xamiltepec, Tlacotepec, Zacualpa, (Zacualpam Amilpas), Temoac, Tlayacapa, Totolapa, Tepuztlan, Chimalhuacan (Chimalhuacan Chalco), Ehecatzingo, Tepetlizpan, Cuitlahuac (Tlahuac) Mizquic and Colhuacan, situated, the major part, in the mountain range that unites Popocatepetl with the eminences of Ajusco.

A short time after the Xuchimilcas, the Chalcas arrived, and established themselves on the South Eastern part of the lake and to the North Western slope of Popocatepetl, fixing upon Tlalmanalco, as the capital of their nation, comprising the places called Amecamecan, Tenango, Ayotzinco, Chalco, Atenco and the one now called San Martin, and arranging their boundaries pacifically with the Xuchimilcas.

The Tepanecas followed after the Chalcas, and populated the Western region of the lake between the Sierra of Guadalupe and the range of hills of Naucalpam; Atzacapotzalco being the residence of the court, and Tlacopam, now Tacuba, the principal seat of the nation, which on the dominion being afterwards divided by the nobles, was extended towards the North to Tenayuca and Tlalnepantla, and on the South to Atlacuihuayan (Tacubaya) and Coyohuacan (Coyoacan) bordering towards the Sierra, with the Othomies.



The Texcucan tribe, as numerous as that of the Xuchimilcas, arrived after the Chalcas, and were led by courageous and prudent commanders, taking up their location on the Eastern part of the lake and founding the kingdom of Acolhuacan, one of the most extensive and powerful of Anahuac, whose capital was Texcoco. The Chichimecas, connecting themselves with all the most cultivated of these tribes, rapidly abandoned their customs and even their own language, identifying themselves with them. The nobles of the Texcucan chiefs, divided among themselves the foundation of other populations, some as far as Huexotla, and erected others at Tepetlaoxtoc, Chiautla, Tlautepechpa (Tepexpam) Otompam (Otumba) and many other towns.

The Tlahuicas, on their arrival, found the shores of the lake populated, and were obliged to leave behind them the Southern mountains of the valley, in order to establish their nation at Cuauhnahuac, afterwards extending themselves to the warm and rich regions of Yautepec, Huaxtepec (Oaxtepec), Acapicthlan and Tlaquiltenanco, or in other words to all the Western part of the present State of Morelos.

Notwithstanding that the lands encompassing the grand lake, were populated, on the arrival of the Tlaxcaltecas, they were assigned the Eastern borders; where for some time they held their residence. This being a warlike tribe, very numerous and increasing rapidly, it created jealousies in the neighbouring tribes, from whence dissensions arose, which it became necessary to settle by an appeal to arms. The sanguinary battle of Poyauhtlan, which the Tlaxcaltecas sustained against the confederate tribes, was favorable to the former, but in spite of their victory, they preferred to emigrate, passing over the rugged Sierra Nevada, in search of other lands, where they might establish themselves quietly and pacifically and enjoy all the advantages of an entirely free country. Some of them proceeded to Tollanzinco and Quauhchinanco and others to Quauhquechollan, but the greater number with their chief at their head, took the road to Cholula and going round by the wide slopes of Matlalcueyatl, they halted at the town of Con-tla, from whence they undertook the conquest of the country occupied by Ulmecas and Xicalancas, whose principal town

was *Cacaxtla*, of which some vestiges may yet be seen to the West of the sanctuary of San Miguel del Milagro.

The sanguinary struggles so tenaciously sustained and the adverse battle of Xocoyucan, obliged these tribes to emigrate, some of them taking a direction towards Zacatlan and Otlatlan to the East of their country, and others towards the plains of Apam until stopping at *Huehuechocan*, which word means to say "where the old men wept", as at this place the ancients bewailed their misfortunes.

The Tlaxcaltecas, stimulated by their warlike and enterprising spirit, extended their dominions and founded the famous republic of Tlaxcala, governed by a senate of nobles and by the heads of the two districts in which it was divided at the beginning of their government, a division which was afterwards modified by erecting two more districts.

The Huexotzincas, alarmed at the Tlaxcaltecas on account of the preponderance they were obtaining, joined the confederation of the neighbouring States and promoted a war of extermination, but without any favorable results to them, as the Tlaxcaltecas, always victorious and aided by the Texcoco-canos, and in presence of the indifference of the Tepanecas, succeeded in establishing their Republic on the firmest and most solid bases, and whose capital may yet be recognized in the ruins very near to the modern Tlaxcala.

The religion of the Tlaxcaltecas was in reality monotheism under the appearance of a symbolical polytheism. Their tutelary God was the gran *Camaxtle*, whose relics were guarded by the lord of Tepectipac and to which the prisoners were sacrificed during the public feasts.

The rivalry sustained by the Tlaxcaltecas against the Mexicans was the cause of their ruin and the perdition of the other Indian nations, and principally of the Aztec or Mexican race, the last that took their seat in the Valley of Mexico and whose annals are of the greatest importance, as much from the events that preceded their establishment, as from those that followed and prepared and completed their entire ruin.

In 1196, the last and most powerful tribe, that of the Nahuatlacas, arrived at the Valley of Mexico; their country was



*Aztlan* (the land of herons or of whiteness) situated in the Northern regions, near Huehuetlapallan and Amequemecan, to the North of the Gulf of California. During their immigration, they halted at Chicomotzoc, separating themselves, as we have already mentioned, from the other tribes who in succession proceeded to the spacious valley of Anahuac ("surrounded by water") a name which was afterwards made extensive to the whole of the Mexican territory, from its being comprised within the two Oceans.

It is very probable that the cause that induced the Nahuatlato to abandon their country was that of roaming in search of better lands and more propitious to their permanency, but with respect to the Mexicans, a circumstance is related which decided their emigration, a circumstance which may be looked upon as traditional:—Huitziton, a personage of great authority amongst the Aztecas, heard in the branches of a tree the trilling of a small bird which in its song repeated the sound "*tihui*," the literal meaning of which is "*let us go*." Huitziton being struck at this and communicating his impressions to another personage called *Tecpaltzin*, they both induced the Aztecas to leave their country, interpreting the song as a mandate from divinity. Even to the present day there is a bird known among the Mexicans by the name of *Tihuitchan* ("Let us go home.")

In 1160 they commenced their peregrination, and passing by a large river which historians concur in being the Colorado and which discharges itself into the Gulf of California; they advanced towards the river Gila, after remaining for some time at a place known to-day by the name of "Casas grandes," not far from the shores of that river. From thence they continued their road and again took up quarters at a place to the North West of Chihuahua, now called like the previous stopping place, "Casas grandes," and whose ruins show the vast proportions of the ancient building and fortress. Leaving behind them the wide "Sierra de la Tarahumara," they afterwards went to Hueycolhuacan, now Culiacan, Capital of the State of Sinaloa, and there remained for three years, during which time they made the statue of their God Huitzilopochtli, which was to accompany them in their expedition.

From Hueycolhuacan they passed to Chicomotzoc, where they made another halt with their God Huitzilopochtli, separating themselves from the other nations of Nahuatlato, who continued their route. After remaining for nine years in Chicomotzoc, they again commenced their travels going towards the South, by Ameca, Cocula and Colima until reaching the region of Zacatula; from whence they passed to Malinalco, continuing their route towards the North, and arriving at Tula in 1196; there they remained for 9 years and 11 more in other places near there. From Tula they went to Zumpanco in 1216, whose governor, *Tochpanecatli* offered them a frank and liberal hospitality, to the extreme of making his son *Ilhuicatli* marry with a noble Aztec maiden called *Tlapacantzin*, from which matrimony the Mexican kings descended. In Zumpanco they remained seven years.

From this last place they passed to Tizayocan, a town situated at 4 leagues towards the East, and it was here that *Tlapacantzin* gave birth to a male child who was called *Huitzilihuitl*. Continuing their excursion, they passed successively to Tolpetlac and Tepeyacac, where with the consent of the king *Xolotl*, they established themselves, but being annoyed by the Chichimeca tribes, they retired to Chapultepec, where, according to Clavijero, they staid seventeen years, or four according to Don Fernando Ramirez. The belligerent and turbulent character of the Aztecs, who always believed in conforming their actions to divine orders, did not allow them to remain at peace during their residence in Chapultepec. Manifesting, at times, submission to the king of Culhuacan, they established themselves quietly and pacifically at the places that monarch had assigned to them, and afterwards unmasking themselves, they openly declared a war of extermination, arming themselves with missiles and darts shot from cross-bows of their invention, called *Atlatl*. After many encounters, the last affray was so calamitous to them, that those who escaped from death or slavery found themselves obliged to seek refuge amongst the rushes of the lake. Continually persecuted by several tribes, they abandoned Chapultepec and passed to Acocolco, a group of islands situated at the Southern extremity of the lake of Texcoco. There

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they saw on a nopal (cactus opuntia) which sprung from the fissure of a rock, a large and beautiful eagle, with its wings extended and devouring a serpent with its talons. This event, according to their beliefs and traditions, indicated to them the spot where they ought to found their city, as in fact they did build it there, about the year 1325, giving it the name of *Tenochtitlan*, which, according to some writers, was derived from *Tenoch*, the chief of the founders; and from *Tetl*, stone, and *nochtli*, nopal, according to others; but this last interpretation has been victoriously refuted by Don Fernando Ramirez and Don Eufemio Mendoza.

During their peregrination, the tribe was divided into two factions, a dissension which produced its effect after the foundation of Mexico, by some of them establishing themselves in a sandy promontory called *Tlaltelolco*, and others in the group of islands, at a short distance therefrom.

The name of Mexico was also given to the new city, in honor of the tutelary God Huitzilopochtli, who it is believed by many to a certain degree, is the selfsame chief Huitziton deified. "The Mexican traditions (Treatise of Eufemio Mendoza) as preserved in the most ancient histories, relate that *Huitzilopochtli* was born of a virgin who belonged to the noble family of Citli (free and ancestral); that his cradle was the heart of a "maguey" plant (metl), and hence the name of *Mecitli*" afterwards changing in to *Mexitli*.

Señor Ramirez, in a valuable *historical-hieroglyphical history of the peregrinations of the Aztec tribes*, which I published in my Atlas of the Republic, circumscribes the Aztec peregrination within very narrow limits, which do not extend farther than over a very small part outside of the valley of Mexico, and indicating as the point of departure, the town of Culhuacan then situated on the borders of the lake.

The ruins scattered over our territory, the historical reports and above all the distribution of the languages in accordance with those reports, cause vacillation in regard to the assertions of Señor Ramirez. Perhaps the work now being prepared by Señor Orozco y Berra may resolve the question.

The indomitable character of the Mexicans was displayed against the misdeeds of their enemies, and stimulated them

to change the form of the government which until then had ruled the destinies of the nation, and had been composed of the principal members of the nobility. They resolved upon establishing their monarchy upon the surest bases of order and respectability and chose as their king Acamapitzin (1352) a descendant of Tochpanecatli and one of the most valiant and prudent of men.

This resolution at once inspired the jealousy and fears of their enemies, who moreover, being instigated by the Tlalteolcos, the rivals of the Mexicans, oppressed the latter by their extortions and tributes, but without ever succeeding in domineering them. It was thus that this growing nation existed for 50 years, destined as it was to rule in the process of time.

The following gives the succession of its kings:

Acamapitzin. . . . .	1352 to 1389
Huitzilihuitl. . . . .	1389 to 1410
Quimalpopoca. . . . .	1410 to 1422
Izcoatl. . . . .	1423 to 1436
Moctezuma Ilhuicamina or Moctezuma I. . . . .	1436 to 1464
Azayacatl. . . . .	1464 to 1477
Tizoc. . . . .	1477 to 1480
Ahuitzotl. . . . .	1480 to 1502
Moctezuma Xocoyotzin or Moctezuma II. . . . .	1502 to 1520
Chitlahuatzin. . . . .	1520
Cuauhtemotzin. . . . .	1521





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## ETHNOGRAPHICAL PART

THERE is much to be said in regard to the indigenous race, numerous and extended as it is throughout the territory of the Mexican Republic: its habits and inveterate customs, diametrically opposed to those of the white and mixed races, influence as much in its non-increase, as they tend to the growth and invigoration of the other two.

If we make a careful examination of the state of the population in different parts of the Republic, we shall find the fact confirmed and our assertions corroborated, when stating that the indigenous race is gradually approaching towards its complete extinction.

The numerous tribes that formerly populated the fertile lands of our frontier States have completely disappeared, as may be observed in New Leon; or are found only in a very limited number, sojourning on the banks of the rivers or in the hidden depths of the mountain ranges, as happens in the States of Sonora and Chihuahua; or are intermixed with the other races in the larger towns.

The preponderance of the "Tarascos" in the ancient kingdom of Michoacan, no longer exists in that State of the Mexican Confederation. Although it be certain that a small portion of the "Tarascos," especially in the Western part of the State, still preserve their traditions and customs, the rest have incorporated themselves with the mixed race, adopting their habits and even forgetting their primitive language.



Nearly all the States of the Republic offer us a like examples. Of the traits that characterized the indigenous race, some are similar and others differ remarkably. In the craggy ravines of Tarahumara between Chihuahua, Sonora and Sinaloa, the natives exist in their natural and independent state, still preserving their ancient traditions and customs: in the central table-lands, and in general in a state of degradation, they exercise those acts of the religion that was imposed upon them by the conquest, always propending towards idolatry and a blinded fanaticism: in the mountainous districts, imbued in their ancient habits, they preserve their customs, dress and dialect, and there may be frequently found amongst them, the practice of their former religious ceremonies, simulated under the safeguard of the public manifestation of their newer faith.

Pantomimic dances are the general and most characteristic expression of their rejoicings; composed on the frontier of savage evolutions around some unfortunate victim; on the river-borders of merry and inoffensive rustic sports; in the wild mountainous regions, imitating the dances, of the *Cegador*, the *Tehuacanzi* and *Zempoalxochitl*, and again in the distant highlands of Tabasco, of pantomimes, in which the Indians dress themselves up in the old Spanish fashion.

Misconfidence, dissimulation, cunning, obstinacy and an inclination for spirituous drinks, are other general characteristics of the Indian, although he is brave, daring and long-suffering. Occasionally we see in him the dexterous hunter, climbing the heights of craggy mountains, and again we meet with him as the fearless soldier in the midst of battle, frequently after a fatiguing march of perhaps some twenty leagues or more.

Many circumstances show that the degradation of the Indian race is not derived from their original nature, but from their customs and mode of living. In a former treatise, I referred to the causes that are inimical to their natural development, which from their aptness, I shall now repeat. If we consider the Indian from the time he is born or even before his birth, we shall only find a series of lamentable wretchedness. The Indian women, even when far advanced in preg-

nancy, do not abstain from hard labor, and without any care for their coming offspring, continue grinding their corn; an occupation that cannot be otherwise than injurious to parturition. Then, before the proper time for taking the child from the breast, it is fed with improper nourishment and difficult of digestion; which occasions diarrhea or other infirmities that either cause its death or at the least contribute to an imperfect development.

The small-pox, owing to the carelessness, repugnance or indolence of the parents as regards vaccination, is the cause of deplorable ravages in this race, more especially among the individuals that live at any considerable distance from central populations.

The Indians are strong by nature; and it is only for this reason that it can be understood how many of them reach an advanced age, in spite of their scarce and humble food, their unhealthy mode of living, and their damp and unwholesome habitations, consisting of miserable huts, where whole families are huddled together.

Another circumstance, to which attention should be called, causes the degeneration of the Indians, and this consists in their premature marriages. In this Republic, the marriageable age for women, medically considered, has been fixed at eighteen years, and in the *tierra caliente* or hot country, at fourteen, but between this doctrine, and the actual results, so fatal to propagation, there exists an immense distance.

To these causes, which contribute so directly to the falling off of the Indian race, must be added their gradual disappearance, arising from their incorporation with other races, and the heavy decrease from losses in campaign, composing, as they do, the major part of the army.

On studying the character, habits and customs of the different tribes inhabiting the Mexican Republic, it is observed that not all of them are found in like circumstances respecting their condition, docility and civilization. Amongst some, such as the *Comanches*, *Apaches* and *Seris* of the Northern frontier, barbarism is met with in all its plenitude: perfidy, treachery and cruelty are the essential qualities of their character: wandering away from their hordes, they are those who principally



infest our border States, destroying and killing all before them and preventing, by their depredations of every species, the development of the boundless wealth of that country. Other Indians, more or less civilized, dwell in the midst of distinct races, dedicating themselves to agricultural pursuits, to making coarse cotton cloth, baskets and mats, as well as to the manufacture of common earthenware and hats, and to the production of butter and cheese, and burning charcoal, and disposing of all these articles in the larger towns or at the fairs called "*tianguis*" or markets, that are held weekly in the villages, where they attend in large numbers, in their showy costumes.

I shall now proceed to give the distribution of the different races that inhabit the territory of the Republic, showing the numbers of which each one is composed, according to my opinion, for which purpose I have not spared in my calculations any of the means advised by prudence for obtaining, as exactly as possible,

others. Consulting

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