

to change the form of the government which until then had  
ruled the nation, and had been composed of  
the principal members of the nobility. They resolved upon  
establishing their monarchy upon the same basis of order  
and respectability, and chose as their king Acamapichtli (1378)  
a descendant of Tlochimocatl, 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 latter  
to lose the rights of the Mexicans, oppressed the latter by  
their extortions and tributes, but without ever succeeding in  
dominating them. It was that this growing nation exist-  
ed for 50 years, destined as it was to rule in the process of  
time.

The following gives the succession of its kings:

1378 to 1380	Acamapichtli
1380 to 1396	Huitzilicochtli
1396 to 1418	Quinlanpopoca
1418 to 1440	Ixcotl
1440 to 1469	Moteczuma Ilhuicamina or Moteczuma I
1469 to 1481	Axayacatl
1481 to 1520	Moteczuma Xocoyotzin or Moteczuma II
1520	Chilichauhtzin
1521	Cauhtimoczin

### 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 Orozco y Berra the reports from those for which of the States of deral District, a viduals of other choacan, Tlax have been enal self very labori

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Señor Orozco laid the ground Republic, and and his approp fice. Reassum been to contri ical data, wit types, in the more than ten

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