

TABLE OF THE AREAS OF MEXICAN STATES, WITH THEIR POPULATION, IN 1860.

STATES.	SUPERFICIAL OR SQUARE MILES.	POPULATION IN 1858.
Aguascalientes.....	2,739	88,329
Chiapa.....	18,679	167,472
Chihuahua.....	83,512	164,073
Cohahuila.....	36,572	67,590
Durango.....	48,489	144,331
Guanajuato.....	11,396	729,103
Guerrero.....	32,003	279,109
Jalisco.....	48,591	804,058
Mexico.....	19,539	1,129,629
Michoacan.....	22,993	554,585
Nueva Leon.....	16,688	145,779
Oajaca.....	23,642	525,938
Puebla.....	8,879	658,609
Queretaro.....	1,884	165,155
San Luis Potosi.....	28,142	397,189
Sinaloa.....	33,722	163,714
Sonora.....	100,228	139,374
Tabasco.....	12,359	70,628
Tamaulipas.....	30,344	109,673
Vera Cruz.....	27,415	349,125
Yucatan.....	48,869	668,623
Zacatecas.....	27,768	296,789
TERRITORIES.		
Lower California.....	60,662	12,000
Colima.....	3,019	62,909
Isla de Carman.....	7,298	11,807
Sierra Gorda.....	3,127	55,358
Tehuantepec.....	12,526	82,395
Tlaxcala.....	1,984	90,158
DISTRICT.		
Federal District.....	90	269,534
Total.....	862,460	8,400,236

## CHAPTER II.

## MEXICO UNDER THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.—HISTORICAL SKETCH.

WHATEVER may be the speculations in regard to the origin of the inhabitants of Mexico, the character and degree of their civilization are unmistakable. When first discovered, Mexico was more thickly peopled than any other portion of the continent. Cortez found an Empire, cities, palaces, pyramids, like those of Egypt; temples, ruins, hieroglyphical inscriptions, and all the traces of an ancient and idolatrous civilization. Gigantic and magnificent monumental remains told of a former race, and of their achievements in architecture and art.

The history of the early inhabitants, of their origin and races, religion, manners, customs, wars and conquests, is involved in great uncertainty. Humboldt, and many others, have supposed that the ancient Mexican races were of Asiatic origin, and that the migration from Eastern Asia by way of the Pacific Ocean or Behring's Straits, commenced with the "Toltec Tribes" about A. D. 700, and was followed by other migrations, and finally by the "Aztecs," about A. D. 1200. The physical organization of the people, the character of their civilization, hieroglyphic records and Mexican traditions, rather support this opinion.

The "Toltec Dynasty" is supposed to have lasted 400 or 500 years, when for some reason unknown, they moved further south to the provinces of Central America, and were succeeded in Mexico by the "Aztecs." Prior to the Spanish conquest, the Toltecs were the most civilized of all the Mexican races. But when Cortez ar-

Ancient Mexico, prior to 1520.

Early History.

The Toltecs. A.D. 700.

rived, the Aztecs, under Montezuma, occupied the country previously in possession of the "Toltecs."

The Aztecs.  
A.D. 1200. The "AZTEC EMPIRE" comprised only the present States of Mexico, Queretaro, and a part of Vera Cruz. But it held more or less control over other monarchies and republics around them. The descendants of the Aztecs, now called *Mexican Indians*, live in the villages and towns of this section. They speak, besides the Spanish, their ancient language, now called "*Mexican*."

The "AZTEC DYNASTY" is traced for about 300 years, culminating in the Empire of the Montezumas, which fell in 1520, under the Spanish invasion and conquest by Cortez.

Wars of the  
Dynasties. The convulsions and wars which marked the progress of the two Dynasties were like those in the early stages of ancient European Empires. Chieftains, tribes, republics and petty kings were waging incessant wars with each other. The waves of conflict swayed to and fro, changing perpetually the territorial limits and the allegiance of smaller tribes in every direction, until, in about 1352, the "Aztec Empire" was consolidated under its first king.

The Montezumas. In 1436 Montezuma I. came to the throne. In 1502, after two intervening sovereigns, Montezuma II. succeeded. During the reigns of the Montezumas, the Aztec Empire attained a pitch of grandeur, to which no society had ever attained in so short a period. It had subsisted only for a hundred and fifty years, and had extended its dominion from the north to the Pacific Ocean on the south, over territories stretching 1,500 miles from east to west, and more than 600 miles from north to south.

## THE AZTEC INDIANS.

Indian Races. The term "Indian" was applied to all the aboriginal inhabitants of the colonies of Spain, because the islands and lands discovered by Columbus were supposed to belong to the group now known as the *East Indies*. By sailing westward, the navigators discovered these lands, which they called the *West Indies*, and the inhabitants, "West Indians." The "Aztecs," or *Mexican Indians*, and the *North American Indians*, are of totally different races and types of humanity.

Population. There is no record of any enumeration of the inhabitants of Mexico prior to the conquest. The estimates and statements of different historians of that period are various and contradictory. The number of victims of war, of massacre and slavery, are rarely reported by oppressors. Many adverse interests have led to a concealment of the actual numbers at different times. The number of inhabitants in the large cities, and in some of the provinces, furnish some clew to the aggregate. The City of Mexico is almost universally stated to have had a population of *three hundred thousand*. The neighboring Republic of Tlascala was reputed to have had 500,000 heads of families. In various contests of Cortez with the forces he encountered, his contemporaries often numbered his adversaries at *fifty thousand men*. From such data, and from the statements of Las Casas, and the Bishop of Chiapa, it has been supposed that the population of the Empire was not less than THIRTY MILLIONS.

## THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND DISPOSITION OF THE AZTECS.

Portrait of the  
Mexicans.

The Abbé Clavigero, who resided nearly forty years in the provinces of New Spain, and who

wrote the history of Mexico, of that period, has given the following description of the Aztecs :

"They are of good stature, generally exceeding, instead of falling short of, the middle size. They are well proportioned in all their limbs. They have good complexions; narrow foreheads; black eyes; clean, firm, regular, white teeth; thick, black, coarse, glossy hair; thin beards; and, generally, no hair upon their legs or thighs. Their skin is of an olive color; there is scarcely a nation upon earth where there are fewer deformed persons; and it would be more difficult to find a single hump-backed, lame, or squint-eyed man among a thousand Mexicans, than among a hundred of any other nation. The unpleasantness of their color, the smallness of their forehead, the thinness of their beard, are so far compensated by the regularity and fine proportion of their limbs, that they can neither be called very beautiful nor the contrary; but seem to hold a middle place between the extremes. Their appearance neither engages nor disgusts. Among the young women of Mexico, there are *many very beautiful and fair*, whose beauty is at the same time rendered more winning by the sweetness of their manner of speaking, and by the pleasantness, and natural modesty of their whole behavior."

General  
Character.

"They are very moderate in eating, but *their passion for liquors is carried to great excess.*

"Their minds are at bottom in every respect like those of the other children of Adam, and endowed with the same powers. The Europeans never did less credit to their own reason, than when they doubted that of the Americans. The state of civilization among the Americans when they were first known to the Spaniards, was much superior to that of the Spaniards themselves, when

they were first known to the Phoenicians, that of the Gauls when they were first known to the Greeks, or that of the Germans and Britons when first known to the Romans. It should have been sufficient to check such an error of man's mind, if it had not been the interest of the inhuman avarice of some ruffians to encourage it. Their understandings are fitted for every kind of science, as experience has shown. Of the Mexicans who have had opportunities of engaging in the pursuit of learning, which is but a small number, the greater part are always engaged in the public and private works. But we have known some good mathematicians, excellent architects, and learned divines. Many persons allow the Mexicans to possess a great talent for imitation, but deny them the praise of invention; a vulgar error, which is contradicted by the ancient history of that people."

Moral Traits.

"Their minds are affected by the same variety of passions as the people of other nations, but not in an equal degree. Mexicans seldom exhibit those transports of anger or frenzies of love, which are so common in other countries. They are slow in their motions, and show a wonderful tenacity and steadiness in those works which require time and long-continued attention.

"They are most patient of injury and hardship, and, where they suspect no evil intention, are most grateful for any kindness."

The Ancient  
Civilization.

The extent of the dominion of Montezuma, his character and court, and the political and social organization of the government, witnessed the advanced state of civilization in the Empire of the Aztecs. The administration of government, and the organization of industry, for the maintenance of its vast population, was not the work of barbarism. To feed, to clothe, to

make law, to define and regulate the rights and duties of citizens, and to preserve law and order in society, demand legislative and administrative talent of high order.

Agriculture. The progress of agriculture, the varied products of the soil, in cereals and fruits, revealed no ordinary degree of cultivation and taste. Their horticulture, ornamental and medicinal, gardens of plants, floating gardens, scientific irrigation and canals, indicated the progress of knowledge.

The roads and highways of the Aztecs are represented by Humboldt and others as rivalling in their structure, the old Roman roads of Italy.

Evidences of a high Civilization. The monumental remains of their architecture, in temples, pyramids and palaces; the progress they had made in arts and manufactures—of threads and cloths, in pottery and metallurgy; the organization of trade, and systematic provision for its wants, in money, weights, and measures; their extraordinary astronomical knowledge; in fine, their whole political, theocratic, military and social economy, marked the interior life of a highly civilized and cultivated people.

The stories related by their conquerors of the bloody rites and cannibalism of the Aztecs, should be taken with some allowance.

It has been stated, that at the consecration of the great Temple, under the predecessor of Montezuma II., *sixty thousand* victims were offered. The historian says, "They ranged the prisoners in two files, each a mile and a half in length, terminating at the Temple, where, as soon as the victims arrived, they were sacrificed." Such a story carries upon its face its own refutation. The Spaniards must have been severely pressed to justify their own atrocities.

## CHAPTER III.

## THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO.—GENERAL VIEW.

Sketch of the Conquest. 1520. THE general history of the conquest is well known. But the halo that surrounded the discovery of the new continent, and its possession by Christian powers, blinded the perceptions and blunted the sensibilities of Christendom to the monstrous and inhuman atrocities of the Conquerors.

Cortez and his followers were men of violence and blood, little better than a horde of pirates and banditti. "They had committed crimes," says Michel Chevalier, "which, by the laws of all nations, could be expiated only by a gallows for the principal, and the galleys for his followers."

Character of the Enterprise. Poor, ambitious, and unprincipled, they sought in a desperate adventure the distinction and wealth they could otherwise never attain. The enterprise in boldness and bravery challenged the admiration of the age in which they lived:—in the perfidy and cruelty with which it was conducted, it deserves and will receive the execration of all coming ages. Herod of Judea and Cortez of Mexico may well divide the honors between them as monsters of human wickedness and crime.

The Conquest and the Conquerors. The London Quarterly Review for October, 1860, says: "The early history of South America must for ever stand out preëminent in the records of human wickedness. If the discovery of the New World is the great romance of history, its conquest and settlement form one of its deepest tragedies; for the subjugation of some of the finest regions of the globe by the most advanced and powerful nation of Europe in the

fifteenth century, unfortunately fell to the lot of men upon whom the multiplying villainies of nature swarmed in unwonted profusion; and the countries which long formed the trans-atlantic empire of Spain have, from the day in which she first planted her foot in the New World to the present time, never ceased to present the most painful contrast between the benevolent dispositions of Providence for the happiness of His creatures, and the power of man to counteract them."

Character and objects of Emigrants. Professor John W. Draper, in his work on the "Civil Policy of America," speaks of this history in the following terms: "The discovery of America by Columbus completed the wonderful change in Europe, begun by the crusades. The crusading out-rush to the East, was followed by an outrush of adventurers to the West. Religious sentiment was superseded by avarice. There was not a people in Europe that did not become involved. As might be expected from her position, Spain was profoundly implicated in all her social ranks. Her men of influence in civil life, in military life, in ecclesiastical life, all emigrated across the ocean. The thirst for gold was too strong for even the pride of family. A paradise of unbounded sensual enjoyment in this life; riches exceeding whatever the wildest dreams of fanatical alchemists had ever suggested—a realized El Dorado—these were temptations which the hot Spanish blood could not resist.

Spain and her Victims. "What Spain did on this Continent can never be too often related—it ought never to be forgotten. She acted with appalling atrocity to those Indians, as though they did not belong to the human race. Their lands and goods were taken from them by Apostolic authority. Their persons were next seized under the

text, that 'the heathen are given as an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as a possession.' *It was one unspeakable outrage*: one unutterable ruin, without discrimination of age or sex. They who died not under the lash, in a tropical sun, died in the darkness of the mine. From sequestered sandbanks, where the red flamingo fishes in the gray of the morning—from fever-stricken mangrove thickets, and the gloom of impenetrable forests—from hiding-places in the clefts of the rocks, and the solitude of invisible caves,—from the eternal snows of the Andes, where there was no witness but the all-seeing sun, there went up to God a cry of human despair. By millions upon millions, whole races and nations were remorselessly cut off. The Bishop of Chiapa affirms that more than *fifteen millions* were exterminated in his time. From Mexico and Peru, a civilization that might have instructed Europe was crushed out."

Historic Associations.

This remarkable territory has been the theatre of some of the most extraordinary events in history. Here flourished for centuries great Empires of antiquity, antedating in their origin and course all else that is known of the Continent. Their monumental inscriptions and remains are a fair counterpart to Egyptian and Assyrian ruins. They carry us back far into the regions of the unknown past, and indicate a civilization that has passed from the face of the earth: an idolatrous, pagan civilization, whose doom, like that of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Greece, and the antediluvians, only furnish further illustration of the eternal decree, that the kingdom and nation that will not serve Jehovah shall perish.

The great Tragedy of the 16th Century.

Here was enacted one of the darkest, most deadly and demoniacal tragedies in the annals of time. In the name of religion, the deed was done.

A simple, gentle, docile race was all but exterminated. It was as if the mountain ranges of the continent were one great altar, and the teeming millions of its valleys, the victims of the sacrifice.

The attempted repetition of the 19th Century. Here, too, in our own times, under our own eyes, the world has witnessed the performance of a drama in all its acts, to the final "exeunt omnes," which has thrilled the world.

The stage was our continent; Europe, Asia, Africa, and all America spectators. The plot was gigantic. Empires, kingdoms, and thrones were concerned. Kings, Queens, and Nobles, courts, cabinets and councils, armies and navies, were actors in the scenes. "The Great Powers," mighty and magnanimous, joined to crush again the aspirations of an enfeebled race, struggling at the work of self-culture, self-elevation, self-government and improvement.

The European Plot. But more than that, there was a mighty "arrière pensée" behind the scenes. The drama was a desperate game, and the end is not yet. It was the game of "all the Cæsars." It was the "Old World" defying the Institutions of the New. And if they had vanquished what they defied, the results in their vast proportions would have outstripped all the schemes that Popes, Emperors, or conquerors of past ages ever dreamed of. They would have changed the destiny of the new world, and an overwhelming reflex tidal wave of despotism would have rolled back over the nations of the old world.

Its end forever. But the drama is played. The game is a failure. The stage and the spectators remain. The actors are changed, and the great question now is, WHAT SHALL BE THE FUTURE OF MEXICO? The sequel of this volume, it is hoped, may throw some light upon

the subject, and indicate, at least, the line of policy, which the interests of Mexico and of the United States—of the American continents, and the cause of liberty, civil and religious, throughout the world, demand.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENT IN THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO.

Achievements of the Spanish Monarchy. 1200-1800. DURING a period of a little more than three hundred and fifty years, the civilization and Christianity of Spain "were illustrated to the nations of the old world," by three great acts in the drama of human history that will never be forgotten: the attempted extermination of the Moors; the persecution and expulsion of the Jews; and the establishment of the Spanish Inquisition.

During the same period, the strange spirit of the rulers and institutions of Spain has been exemplified by equally significant acts in the new world: the conquest of her colonies; the overthrow of the empires of the Montezumas and the Incas; the extermination of some fifty millions of the aboriginal inhabitants; and the establishment and administration of her colonial governments.

Spain, for the last six centuries of the Christian era, has borne upon her banner and carried round the world, the sacred "Christ-bearing" symbol of peace on earth and good will to men. How far she has manifested the spirit of the symbol, the facts of history record, and the verdict of mankind will tell.

Alfonso X. The Wise. 1256. In the 13th century, about two hundred years prior to the discovery of America, Alfonso X. was King of Spain. He was one of the most learned