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THE AUTHOR.

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MEXICO OF THE XXTH CENTURY

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If the history of the nations be diligently searched, there will probably be found no more striking evidence of a long, merciless and purposeless oppression than that of Mexico at the hands of Spain. During the whole of the three hundred years during which Mexico was subject to Spanish rule, not one single act of grace, of consideration, nor even of common fairness towards that Colony can be traced.

Commencing with the landing of the Spanish in 1521, when they met the Indians' courteous and kindly if timid reception with the display of firearms and slaughter, a long and uninterrupted series of cruel persecutions has characterised the government of "New Spain," as the country was called by its conquerors, but never by anyone else. Not only were the native Indians victimised, reduced to the position of mere slaves, being bought and sold with the land and compelled to work upon it like serfs, but all "Spaniards" born in America were treated with indignity, being classed as "Creoles" and ranking socially, and in every other way, with the low-class Indians of the country. No wonder, then, that hatred for Spain and for everything Spanish has become, and will long remain, a tradition in Mexico. Three centuries of