

# LÓPEZ DE FRANCISCO

THE PLEASANT HISTORIE  
OF THE CONQUEST OF  
THE VVEAST INDIA, NOW  
CALLED NEW SPAYNE

**Francisco López de Gómara**  
**The pleasant historie of**  
**the conquest of the VVeast**  
**India, now called new Spayne**

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*The pleasant historie of the conquest of the VVeast India, now called new  
Spayne / atchieued by the vvorthy Prince Hernando Cortes, marques / of the  
Valley of Huaxacac, most delectable to reade:*

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in affaires of merchandize for the vvorshipfull *Thomas Locke* deceased, and his company, time then permitted me, to haue cōference vvith auncient gentlemen vvhicke had serued in the Conquest of the vvest India, novve called nevve Spaine, vnder the princely Captaine *Hernando Cortez*. By vvhom as present vvitnesses at many of the actes herein contayned, I vvas credibly informed, that this delectable and vvorthy Historie is a most true and iust reporte of matter paste in effect: vvherefore I did the more vvillingly turne ouer and peruse the same, vvhicke is a Mirrour and an excellent president, for all such as shall take in hande to gouerne nevve Discoueries: for here they shall behold, hovv Glorie, Renovvne, and perfite Felicitie, is not gotten but vvith greate paines, trauaile, perill and daunger of life: here shall they see the vvisedome, curtesie, valour and pollicie of vvorthy Captaynes, yea and the faithfull hartes vvhicke they ought to beare vnto their Princes seruice: here also is described, hovv to vse and correct the stubborn & mutinous persons, & in vvhat order to exalt the good, stoute and vertuous Souldiers, and chiefly, hovv to preserue and keepe that bevvtifull Dame *Lady Victorie* vvhe she is obtayned. And vvhere it vvas supposed, that the golden mettall had his beginning and place in the East and VVeast *India*, neare vnto the hote Zoane, (as moste learned vvriters helde opinion) it is novve approued by the venterous trauellour and vvorthy captaine *Martin Frobisher* Esquire, yea and also through the greate paynes, procurement, and firste inuention of the vvorshipfull *Mychaell Locke* Merchaunt, that the



same golden mettall dothe also lie incorporate in the bovvells of the Norvveast parties, enuironned vvith admirable Tovvers, Pillers and Pynacles, of Rockes, Stone, and Ise, possessed of a people bothe straunge, & rare in shape, attire and lyuing, yea suche a Countrey and people, as all *Europe* had forsaken and made no account of, excepte our moste gracious Queene and her subiectes, vvhome vndoubtedly God hath appoynted, not onely to be supreme Princesse ouer them, but also to be a meane that the name of Christ maybe knovven vnto this Heathenish and Sauage generation.

Not long since (right Honorable) I happened to trauayle from the famous Cittie of *Tolledo* in *Spayne*, tovvarde highe *Castile*, and by fortune ouertooke an auncient Gentlemen, vvorshipfully accompanied, vnto vvhō I vvas so bold as to approch, beseching his vvorship to aduertise me of his iourney: vvho (after he had beheld my white head & beard) ansvvered ful gently, that his intēt vvas to trauayle vnto the king of Spaynes Court, and vvelcomed me vnto his company. In shorte space that vve had journeyed together, and communed of each other his Countrey, it pleased him to say as follovveth: My good friende, if you knevv my sute vnto the Kings maiestie, you vvould iudge that I vv ere a mad man, and therefore to shorten oure vvay, I vvill declare my attempted sute vnto you. You shall vnderstande, that I am a Gentleman of lxx. yeares of age, and sometimes I serued in the ciuill vvarrs of *Pirru*, vvhere I vvas vvounded in diuers parts of my body, and am novv thereby lame in one of my

legges and shoulder. I haue neyther VVife nor childe, and at this presente (God be praised) I haue in the Contractation house in the Citie of *Siuill*, in golde and plate, the summe of thirtie thousande Duckates: and I haue also in *Pirru* in good lands and possessions, the yearely rente of tvvelue thousande Duckates, vvhicke rentes and readye money is sufficiente to mainteyne a poore Gentleman. But al this notvvithstanding, I do novv sue vnto the Kings Maiestie, to haue licence and authoritie to discouer and conquere a certayne parte of *India*, vvhyche adioyneth vvith *Brazile*, and is part of the Empire of *Pirru*, I pray you novve declare what you thinke of my sute. By my troth sir (quoth I) I trust your vvorship vvill pardon a rash and suddaine iudgemēt, which you now demand at my hād: yea truly (quoth he) say vvhat you list. Then (quoth I) my opiniō is, that you are not wel in your wit, for vvhat vvould you haue? vvil not reason suffice you? or else would you now in your old days be an Emperour, considering that your Sepulchre attendeth for you. Novve truly I thanke you (quoth he) for of youre iudgement are most men: but I say vnto you, considering that all flesh must finish, I seeke for no quiet rest in this transitorie life: yea the vvise and Christian Doctors do teach and admonish, that euery true Christian is borne, not for his ovvne priuate vvealth and pleasure, but rather to help and succoure others his poore brethren. Likevvise doe I consider the greate number of Gentlemen, yonger brethren, and other valiāt persons, vvho through vvant of liuing, do fall into many disorders. VVherefore to accomplish my dutie tovvard

God and my Prince, and to releue such poore Gentlemen, do I novv attempte this iourney, vvith the aduenture of my bodye and goodes, and for that purpose I haue in readinesse foure tall Shippes, vvell furnished in the porte of *Saint Lucar de Barrameda*, hoping assuredlye, that before the life depart from my body, to heare these valiante yong Gentlemen (vvhome novv I meane to haue in my company) say, oh happie day, vvhen olde *Zarate* (for so is my name) broughte vs from penurie, yea and from a number of perils that vve vvere like to fall into. I hope also, that the royall estate of my Prince shall be by my paynes and poore seruice enlarged: beleue you me, this is the onely sumptuous Tumbe that I pretende to builde for my poore carkas. But yet I knovv there are some, vnto vvhome I may compare the Bore that lyeth vvallovvyng in his Sty, vvho vvill not lette to saye, vvhat neede vve any other vvorld, honor, or Kingdomes? let vs be contented vvith that vve haue: vvho may easily be aunsvvered, Sir glutton, your paunch is full, and little care you for the glory of God, honor of youre Prince, neyther the neede and necessitie of youre poore neyboures. VVith this conclusion the Gentleman ended his tale, the iudgement vvhereof I leaue to noble Gentlemen his peeres to be determined.

And vvhere oure Captayne *Hernando Cortez*, of vvwhose valiant actes this historie treateth, hathe deserued immortal fame, euē so doubtlesse I hope, that vvithin this happie Realme is novv liuing a Gentleman, vvose zeale of trauayle and valiant beginnings dothe prognosticate greate, maruellous, and happie

successes: for perfection of honor and profite is not gotten in one daye, nor in one or two voyages, as the true histories of the East and West Conquests by Spanyardes and Portingalles do testifye. And calling to remembrance the greates zeale and good will which your honor hath alwayes extended to good and profitable attempts, and especially in the proceedings of the new discovery, your honor hath not only used liberalitie in your adventures, but also taken greates paynes in Courte, to aduance and further the voyage, a number I saye of Gentlemen, Marriners, and other artificers, shal haue great cause to pray for your honor. And where I for my parte haue tasted of your honors goodnesse sundrye wayes, I am nowe most humbly to beseech your honor to accept this poore gifte, the which I haue translated out of the Spanish tong, not decked with gallant coulours, nor yet fyled with pleasant phrase of Rhetorike, for these things are not for poore Marchant trauellers, but are reserued to learned Writers: yet I trust the Author will pardon mee, because I haue gone as neere the sense of this Historie, as my cunning would reach vnto. I also craue, that it may please your honor, when your greates and vaightie businesse will permitte, to beholde this worke, and that shall be for me an encouragemente to take in hande the translation of the East *India*, which is nowe enjoyed by the King of Portingall. Thus I ende, beseeching the Almighty to preserue your honorable estate.

(?)

*Your honors most ready at commaundement Thomas Nicholas.*

# The Conquest of the *Weast India*

## The Byrth and lynage of *Hernando Cortez*

In the yeare of our Sauour, 1485. being kings of *Castill* and *Aragon*, the Catholike princes *Fernando* and *Isabell* his wyfe, was borne *Hernando Cortez* in a towne called *Medellin*, situated in the prouince of *Andulozia*: his Father was named *Martyn Cortez de Monroy*, & his mother was called Lady *Katherin Pizarro Altamirano*, they were bothe of good byrth, and procéded from foure principall houses, that is to say, the house of *Cortez*, the house of *Monroy*, the house of *Pizarro*, and the house of *Altamirano*, which foure houses are auncient, noble and honorable: yet these parents but poore in goods, but riche in vertue & good life, for whiche cause they were muche estéemed and beloued among theyr neighbours. His mother was of inclination deuoute, but somewhat harde: his father was charitable and mercyfull, who in his youth applied himselfe to the warres, and was Liuetenant to a company of horsemen. *Hernando Cortez* in his childehood was very sickely, so that many tymes he was at the poynt of death: And when he came to .xiiii. yéeres of age, his parents sent him to the Vniuersitie of *Salamanca*, where he remayned twoo yeares,

learnynge Grammar, and then returned to *Medellin* where of his studie, yea possible for want of money: yet his parēts were much offended with him for leauing his studie, for theyr onely desire was to haue had him a student at lawe, whiche is a facultie both riche and worshipfull, considering their sonne to be of a good witte and abilitie: Yet he caused much strife in his Fathers house, for he was a very vnhappy ladde, high minded, and a louer of chivalrie, for which cause he determined with himselfe to wander abroad to seeke aduentures. And at that instant happened two iorneyes fit for his purpose & inclination. The one of them was to *Naples* wyth *Gonsalo Hernandez* of the Citie of *Cordoua*, who was a worthy man, & named the great captaine. And the other iourney was to the Weast India, with the Lorde *Nicholas de Ouando*, a knight of the order of *Larez*, who was then appointed for gouernour of those parties. And musing with himselfe which waye to take, determined to passe into *India*, chiefly bycause the gouernour was of his acquaintance, and such a one as would haue care of him. And likewise the great desire of gold made him to couet that voyage more than the Iorney vnto *Naples*. Now in the meane while that y<sup>e</sup> fleet was preparing for *India*, it chaunced, *Hernando Cartez* pretended to go vnto a certaine house in the night season to talke with a woman, and clyming ouer a Wall whiche was of weake foundation, both he and the Wal fell together: So that with the noyse of hys fall, and ratling of his armour which he ware, came out a man newly married, and findyng him fallen at hys dore would haue slayne

hym, suspecting somewhat of his newe married wife, but that a certaine olde woman (being his mother in lawe) wyth great perswasions stayed him from that fact. Yet with the fall he fell into a grieuous Ague, and continued sicke for a long season, so that he could not procéede vppon his voyage with the gouernour *Ouando*. And when he had obtained and fullye recouered his health, he mynded to passe into *Italy*, And so toke hys way towarde *Valentia*, wandering here and there almoste a whole yeare wyth much necessitye and penurie, and then returned home againe to *Medellyn*, with determination to procéed vppon his pretended voyage of *India*: Wherevppon hys father and mother waying their sonnes estate, desired God to blesse hym, and gaue him money in his purse for his iorney.



## The age of Cortez vwhen he passed *into India*

*Hernando Cortez* was of the age of nintéene yeares, in the yeare of Christ 1504. and then he went toward *India*, and agréed for his passage and victual with *Alonso Quintezo* who went in companie of other four shippes laden with merchandise, whiche nauie departed from saint *Lucas de Barramedo*, with prosperous nauigation, vntyll they arriued at the Iland of *Gomera* one of the *Canarie* Ilands, where they did prouide themselues of all things necessarie for so long a voyage as they then had in hand.

### Comfort of God

*Alounso Quintezo*, being greedie of his voyage, and desirous to come to the Ilande of *Sainto Domingo* before his fellowes, hoping to sel his commoditie the better, departed from *Gomera* in the night season without knowledge giuing vnto his company. But incontinent after he had hoysed vp his sayles, arose vp so great a winde and tempest, that his maine mast brake, whereby hee was forced to retourne backe againe to the Ilande of *Gomera*. And he made earnest requeste to them of the other shyppes to staye for him, vntyl hee hadde mended his Mast, who friendlye and neyghbourlye graunted hys desire, and departed altogether,

saying in sight the one of the other certayne dayes: yet the sayde *Quintero*, seying the weather stedfast, and harpyng vpon gaynes, flewe from his fellowes agayne. And where as *Frances Ninio de Guelua* his pilote was not experte in that Nauigation, they knew not where they were at length: the Mariners did giue sundry Iudgements: the Pilote was in great perplexitie and sadnesse, their passengers lamented, and bewayled their unfortunate successe: the Master of the shippe layde the faulte to the Pilote, and the Pilote likewise charged the Master, for it did appeare that they were fallen out before. In this meane time their victuall waxed skant, and their freshe water wanted, so that they prepared themselues to die. Some cursed theyr fortune, others asked mercie at Gods hande, looking for death and to be eaten of the *Cariues*. And in this tyme of tribulation came a Doue flying to the shippe, beyng on good Friday at Sunne sette, and satte him on the shippe toppe: whereat they were all comforted, and tooke it for a myracle and good token and some wept with ioy, some sayd y<sup>t</sup> God had sente the Doue to comforte them, others sayde that lande was neare, and all gaue hartie thanks vnto God, directing their course that way that the Doue flew: and when the Doue was out of sighte, they sorrowed againe, but yet remayned with hope to see shortlye lande and on Easterday they discovered the Ilande of *Santo Domingo*, whiche was firste discried by *Christopher Zorso*, who cryed, lande, lande, a chéerefull voyce to the saylers. The Pilote looked out, and knewe that it was the poynt, or cape of *Semana*, and within foure dayes after they arriued in the porte

of *Santo Domingo*, whiche was long wished for, and there they founde the other shippes of their company arriued many dayes before.

## The time that Cortez abode *in Santo Domingo*

Soone after that the Gouvernour *Ouando* was in his regimēte and office, *Cortez* arriued at *Santo Domingo*, and the Gouvernours Secretarie, called *Medina*, receyued and lodged him, and also enformed him of the estate of the Iland, and aduised hym what was néedefull to doe, wishing that hée would be a dweller there, and that he should haue a plot to build vpon, with certaine ground for husbandry. But *Cortez* his thought was cleane contrary, for hée iudged, that as soone as he came thither, he should lade with gold, whereby hée did little estéeme his friend *Medina* his couंसell, saying, that he had rather goe to gather gold, than to trauell in husbandrie. *Medina* yet perswaded him, that he shoulde take better aduisement, for to finde golde, was doubtfull, and very troubesome. This talke ended, *Cortez* went to kisse the Gouvernours handes, and to declare the cause of his comming, with other newes from *Estremadure* the Gouvernours Couñtre. The Gouvernour friendly welcommed him, and also perswaded him to abide there, the which counsell he accepted, and shortlye after wente to the warres, whereof was Captayne *Iaymes Velasques*, in the prouince of *Anigua Iaqua*, and *Guaca Iarima*, and other Lordships whiche were not as yet pacified wyth the late rebellion of *Anacoana* widdowe, who was a

gentlewoman of great liuing. *Ouando* gaue vnto *Cortez* certayne Indyans in the Countrey of *Daiguao*, and also the office of publike notarie in *Azua*, a towne whyche the Gouvernour had builded, and there dwelt *Cortez* fyue or syxe yeares, and began to play the good husband. Now in this meane season he woulde haue gone to *Veragua*, which was reported to bee maruellous riche, with the Captayn *Iaymes de Nicuesa*: but bycause of an empostume that he had vnder his righte knée, he went not, and as it happened, he was therein fortunate, for that thereby hée escaped great perils and troubles, whiche happened to them that went on that voyage and iourney.

# Things that happened to Cortez in *the Ilande of Cuba*

## Cortez escapeth

### The Gouvernoure vvas sore afrayde

The Lorde *Iames Colori* being Admirall and chiefe Gouvernour of the new *India*, sent one *Iaymes Velasques* to conquer the Ilande of *Cuba*, in the yeare .1511. And gaue vnto him men, Armour, and other thinges necessarie. And then *Hernando Cortez* wente to that conquest as a Clarke to the Treasurer called *Michaelle de Passamontes*, for to kéepe the accompts of the Kings fiftes and reuenewes, being so intreated and required by the same *Iaymes Velasques*, bycause he was holden for a man both able and diligente. And it followed, that in the repartition of the lands conquered, *Iaymes Velasques* gaue vnto *Cortez* the Indians of *Manicorao*, in coniunct company with his brother in lawe called *Iuan Xuarez*, wherevpon *Cortez* did inhabite in *Saint Iames de Barucoa*, whiche was the first place of habitation in that Ilande, whereas he bredde and broughte vp Kine, Shéepe, and Mares, and was the first that hadde there any heard or flocke, and with

his *Indians* he gathered great quantitie of golde, so that in short time he waxed riche, and ioyned in company with one *Andres de Duero* a Merchaunt, and put in two thousande Castlins for his stocke. He was also highly estéemed with *Iaymes Velasques*, and put in authoritie to dispatch businesse, and to giue order for edifices. In his tyme he caused a money house to be built, & also an Hospital. At that time one *Iuan Xuarez* naturall of the Citie of *Granada*, carried to the Ile of *Cuba* his mother and thrée sisters, whiche came to the Iland of *Santo Domingo*, with that vicequéene the Lady *Mary* of *Toledo*, in Anno .1509. hoping to marrie them there with rich men, for they were very poore. And the one of them named *Cathelina* was wont to say, That she shoulde be a greate Gentlewoman: it was eyther hyr dreames and fantasies, or else some Astronomer hadde made hir beléeue so, but hir mother was reported to bée very cunning. The maydens were beautifull, for which cause, and also being there but fewe Spanishe women, they were muche made of, and often feasted. But *Cortez* was woer to the saide *Cathelina*, and at the ende married with hir: Although at the first there was some strife about the matter, and *Cortez* put in prison, bycause he refused hir for his wife, but she demaunded him as hir husband by faith and troth of hand: wherein *Iaymes Velasques* did stande hir friende, by reason of an other sister of hyrs which he had, but of an euil name. It so fell out that one *Baltazar Bermudez*, *Iuan Xuarez*, and the two *Anthony Velasques*, with one *Villegas* accused *Cortez*, that he ought to marrie with *Cathelina*, yet those witnesses spake of

euill will many things, as touching y<sup>e</sup> affaires cōmitted to his charge, alleading y<sup>t</sup> he vsed secret dealing with certaine persons. The which causes although they were not true, yet they carried great colour thereof. For why? many wēt secretly to *Cortez* his house, complayning of *Iaymes Velasques*. Some bycause they had not iust repertitiō of the cōquered Indiās, and other some not according to deserte. Contrariwyse *Iames Velasques* gaue credit to his talebearers, bicause *Cortez* refused to marrie w<sup>t</sup> *Cathelina Xuarez*, & vsed vncourteous words vnto him in y<sup>e</sup> presēce of many that stode by, and also commaunded him to warde. And when *Cortez* sawe himselfe in the stockes, he feared some proces of false witnesse, as many times dothe happen in those parties. At time conueniente he brake the locke off the stockes, and layde hand vpon the Sword and Target of the kéeper, and brake vp a windowe, escaping thereby into the stréete, and tooke the Church for Sanctuary. But when *Iaymes Velasques* had notice thereof, he was greatlye offended with *Christopher Lagos* the Iayler, saying, that for money he had losed him: wherefore he procured by al meanes to plucke him out of the Sanctuary. But *Cortez* hauing intelligence of his dealing, did resiste and withstand his force. Yet notwithstanding one daye *Cortez* walking before the Church dore, and being carelesse of his businesse, was caught by the backe with a Serieant called *Iohn Esquier* and others, and then was put aboorde a Shyppe vnder hatches. *Cortez* was welbeloued among his neighbours, who did well consider



the euill will that the Gouvernour bare vnto him. But nowe *Cortez* séeing himselfe vnder hatches, despaired of his libertie, and did verily thinke, that he shoulde be sent prisoner to the Chancerie of *Santo Domingo*, or else to *Spayne*, who being in this extremitie, soughte all meanes to get hys foote out of the chayne, and at length he gotte it out, and the same nighte he changed his apparell with a ladde that serued him, and by the Pump of the Shippe he gotte out, not heard of any his kéepers, climbing softly along the Shippe syde, he entred the Skiffe and went hys way therewith, and bycause they shoulde not pursue after him, he losed the Boate of another Shippe that roade by them. The Currant of *Macaguanigua* a riuer of *Barucoa*, was so fierce, that he could not gette in with his Skiffe, bicause he had no help to row, & was also very werie, fearing to be drowned if he should put himselfe to the land, wherefore he stripped himselfe naked, and tyed a nyghtkerchiefe aboute hys head, with certayne wrytings apperteyning to his office of Notarie and Clearkshippe to the Treasurer, and other things that were agaynst the Gouvernoure *Iames Velasques*, and in this sorte swamme to lande, and wente home to hys owne house, and spake with *Iohn Xuarez* hys brother in law, and tooke Sanctuarie agayne with Armour. Then the Gouvernoure *Iames Velasques* sente hym worde, that all matters shoulde bée forgotten, and that they shoulde remayne friendes, as in tyme past they hadde bin, and to goe with hym to the Warres agaynste certayne Indians that hadde rebelled. *Cortez* made hym no aunswere, but incontinent married with mistresse *Catalina*

*Xuarez* according to his promise, and to lyue in peace. *Iames Velasques* procéded on hys iourney wyth a greate companye agaynste the Rebelles. Then sayde *Cortez* to hys brother in lawe *Iohn Xuares*, bryng me (quoth he) my Launce and my Crosbowe to the Townes ende. And so in that euening hée wente out of Sanctuarie, and taking hys Crossebowe in hande, hée wente with his brother in lawe to a certayne Farme, where *Iames Velasques* was alone, with his householde seruauntes, for hys armye was lodged in a Village thereby, and came thither somewhat late, and at suche tyme as the Gouvernoure was perusing hys Booke of charges, and knocked at his dore which stode open, saying: Héere is *Cortez* that woulde speake with the Gouvernoure, and so wente in. When *Iames Velasques* sawe hym armed, and at such an houre, he was maruellously afrayde, desiring hym to rest hymselfe, and also to accepte hys Supper: No Sir (quoth he) my onely comming is, but to knowe the complayntes you haue of me, and to satisfye you therein, and also to bée youre friende and seruitor. They then embraced eache other in token of friendship. And after long talke, they lay both in one bedde, where *Iames de Orrelano* founde them, who went to carrie newes to the Gouvernoure, how *Cortez* had fledde. After this sort came *Cortez* agayne to his former friendshippe with *Iames Velasques*, and procéded with him to the Warres, but afterwarde at his returne, he was lyke to haue bin drowned in the sea: For as he came from the Caues of *Bani* to visite certayne of hys Shepheardes and *Indians* that wrought in the Pines of *Barrucoa* where his dwelling

was, his *Canoe* or little boate ouerthrew, being night, and halfe a league from land, with tempeste, wherby he was put to his shiftes, and forced to swimme, and happened to espye lyght that certayne Shepheardes had which were at supper néere the Sea side. By suche like perils and daungers, runne the excellent menne their race, vntill that they arriue at the Hauen where their good lotte is preserued.

# The discoverie of newv Spayne

## Men tangled in foolish loue

*Fraunces Hernandes de Cordoua* did first discover *Xucatan*, going with thrée Shyps for *Indians*, or else to barter. These Shippes were sette forth by *Christopher Morante*, and *Lope Ochoa de Saizedo*, in Anno .1517. And although he broughte home nothing at that time but stripes, yet he broughte perfect relation, how the Countrey was rich of gold and siluer, and the people of the countrey clothed. Then *Iames Velasques* Gouvernoure of the Iland of *Cuba*, sent the next yeare following his kinsman, called *Iohn de Grijalua*, with two hundred *Spanyardes* in foure Shippes, thinking to obtayne much gold and siluer for his Merchandise at those places, which *Fraunces Hernandez* had enformed him: So that *Iohn de Grijalua* wente to *Xucatan*, and there foughte with the *Indians* of *Champoton*, and was hurt. From thēce he entred the riuer of *Tauasco*, which *Grijalua* hadde so named, in the whiche place he bartered for things of small value. He had in exchaunge golde, cloth of cotten wooll, and other curious things wrought of feathers. He was also at Saint *Iohn de Vlhua*, and tooke possession for the King, in the name of *Iames Velasques*, and there also exchanged

his Haberdashe wares, for Golde, and Couerlets of cotten, and feathers: and if he hadde considered his good fortune, he would haue planted habitation in so rich a land, as his company did earnestly request him, and if he had so done, then had he bin as *Cortez* was. But suche wealth was not for him which knew it not, although he excused himselfe, saying, he went not to inhabite, but to barter onely in traffike of his Marchandise, and to discouer whether that land of *Xucatan* were an Ilande, or no. And finding it a mayne land, and populous, he left off for very feare. Likewise, some of his company were desirous to returne to *Cuba*, among whome, was one *Pedro de Aluado*, who was farre in loue with a woman of that countrey. So they determined to returne, with relation to the Gouvernoure of suche things as hadde happened till that day, and sayled homewardes along the coast to *Panuco*, and so came to *Cuba*, to the greate grieve of many of hys company. Yea some of them wept, with sorrowe that hée would not abide in that rich countrey. He was fiue monethes vpon his voyage homewarde from land to lande, and eyght monethes till his returne to the Citie. But when he came home, the Gouvernoure hauing hearde of his procéedings, would not looke vpon him, whiche was hys iust reward.

# **The Inuentorie of the treasure that *Grijalua brought for his wares***

*Iohn de Grijalua* bought of the Indians of *Potonchan*, *Saint Iohn de Vlhua*, and other places of that coast, suche thynges as made his fellowes farre in loue with the Countrey, and loth to depart from thēce. The workmāship of many of the things that they bought, was more worth than the thing it selfe, as this Inuentory perticularly doth shew.

# The Inuentry

A little Idoll of golde hollowe.

A greater of golde, with hornes and heare, with a string of beadestones aboute his necke, and a Flyeflappe in his hand, and a little stone for his nauell.

A péece of golde, like the patent of a Challice, garnished with stones.

A Skull of golde, with two hornes, and blacke heare.

Two and twenty earerings of golde.

Two and twenty péesces of an other fashion.

Foure bracelettes of golde very broade.

A payre of beades of golde, the stones hollowe, wyth a Frogge of golde hanging at the same.

Another paire, with a Lyon of golde.

A great paire of earerings of golde.

Two little Eagles of golde hollowe.

A little Saltseller of golde.

Two earerings of golde with Turkie stones.

A collar to hang aboute a womans necke, of twelue péesces, with four and twenty stones hanging thereat.

A great collar of golde.

Sixe little collers of golde thinne.

Seauen other collers of gold with stones.

Foure earerings of golden leafe.

Twentie fishinghookes of golde.

Twelue graines of gold, waying fiftie Duckets.

A headlace of gold.

Certaine thinne planches of gold.

A Potedge pot of gold.

An Idoll of golde hollowe.

Certaine thinne brouches of gold.

Nine beade stones of gold.

Two payre of gilt beades.

One payre of wodden beades guilt.

A little cuppe of golde, with eighte purple stones, and twentie thrée stones of an other collour.

Foure belles of gold.

A little sauser of gold.

A little boxe of gold.

Certaine smal collers of gold of smal value.

A hollow apple of gold.

Fourtie hatchets of gold mixed with copper, valued in two thousand fiue hundred Duckets.

A whole harneis or furniture for an armed man of gold thinne beaten.

An other whole armour of wood with leaues of golde, garnished with little blacke stones.

A certaine piece made like vnto a feather, of an hyde and gold ioyntly wrought.

Foure pieces of armour of wood made for the knées, and



couered with golden leafe.

Two targets couered with feathers of many and fyne colours.  
Diuerse other targets of gold and feathers.

A tuffe of feathers of sundry colours, with a little byrd in the  
middest, very liuely.

A wing of gold and feathers.

Two flyflappes of feathers.

Two little chamberpottes of Allabaster, beset with many  
trimme stones, and some fyne, & among them there was one  
esteemed at two thousand Duckets.

Certaine beades of tinne.

Fiue paire of wooden beades rounde and couered wyth a  
leafe of gold very thinne.

A hundred and thirty hollow bead stones of gold.

Many beades of woodde gilt.

A paire of Sissers of wood gilt.

Two gilt vissors.

A vissor of strange gesture of gold.

Foure vissors of wood gilt.

Foure dishes of wood couered with golden leafe.

A dogges head of gold beset with stones.

An other beastes head garnished with gold.

Fiue paire of rush shooes.

Thrée red hides.

Seuen rasors of flint stone, for to cut vp men that were  
sacrifised.

Two painted dishes of wood with an Ewer.

A garmēt with halfe sléeues of feathers of excéeding fine colours.

A couerlet of feathers.

Many couerlets of cotten very fine.

Many other couerlets of cotten course.

Two kerchiefs of good cotten.

Many perfumes of sweete odor, much of that countrey fruite.

They also brought newes that there were *Amazons* women of warre, in certaine Ilandes, and manye gaue credit, being amazed at the things that they had brought bartered for things of a vile price: as here-vnder appeareth the Merchandise that they gaue for al the aforesaid Iewels.

# **The Inuentorie of the Spanish Merchandise**

Sixe course shirts.

Thrée paire of Maryners breeches of lynnen.

Fiue paire of womens shoes.

Fiue broad leatherne girdels wrought with coloured thréed,  
with their purses.

Manye purses of shéepes skinne.

Sixe glasses a little gilt.

Foure brouches of glasse.

Two thousand beadstones of glasse greene.

A hundred paire of beades of diuerse colours.

Twenty woodencombes.

Sixe paire of Sissers.

Fiftéene kniues great and small.

A thousand taylers nedels.

Two thousand pinnes of sorts.

Eight paire of corded shoes.

A paire of pinsers and a hammer.

Seauen red night cappes.

Thrée coates of colours.

A freese coate with a cap of the same.

An old gréene veluet coate.

An olde veluet cappe.

## The determination of Cortez to prepare a *Nauie for discoverie*

Bycause *Iohn de Grijalua* was absent a longer season than was *Francisco Hernandez de Cordoua*, before his returne, or giuing aduise of his proceedings, the gouernoure *Valasques* prepared a Caruel, and therein sent one *Christofer de Olid*, for to seeke *Grijalua* with succor if need wer, and gaue *Olid* great charge, that he should returne with newes from *Grijalua* with all speede. But this messenger taried but a small while vpon his voyage, and saw but little of *Yucatan*, and not fynding *Grijalua*, he returned backe againe to *Cuba*, which returne happed not wel for the gouernour nor yet for *Grijalua*. For if he had proceeded forthe on his way to Saint *Iohn de Vlhua*, hee had then mette with whom he sought for, and likewise caused him to haue inhabited there. But he excused him self, alleaging that he had lost his ankers, and was therfore forced of necessitie to returne.

And as soone as *Olid* was departed on that voyage, *Pedro de Aluarado* returned to *Cuba*, wyth full relation of the discoverie, & brought many things w<sup>t</sup> hym, wrought in gold, with strange coloured feathers, and cotton wool. The gouernour *Iames Valasques* reioyced much to behold those principles: And all the Spaniardes of *Cuba* wondered therat, and likewise to heare the whole relatiō of the iourney. Yet the gouernour feared the returne

of his kinsman, bycause some of his companie that came sicke and diseased from those parties, saide that *Grijalua* meant not to inhabite there, and that the people and land was great, and also how the same people were warlike: likewise the gouernour feared the wisdom and courage of his kinsman. Wherevppon he determined to send thither certaine shippes, with souldiers and armor and other trifling things, thinking chiefly to enrich himself by barter, and also to inhabite by force. He requested one *Baltazer Vermudez* to take that voyage in hand, who accepted the offer, but he demaunded thrée thousand duckets for his furniture and prouision. Their gouernour hearing this demaund, answered, that in such sorte the charges would be more than the profite: And so for that tyme lefte off the matter, bycause he was couetous, and loth to spend, thinking to prouide an army at other mēs cost, as he had done before, when *Grijalua* went firste on that voyage, for at that time one *Francisco de Montezo* did furnish one shippe. And also certaine gentlemen called *Alaunso Fernādez*, *Porto Carero*, *Alaunso de Auila* & *Iames de Ordas* with manye others, wente with *Grijalua* at theyr proper costes and charges. It followed that the gouernour brake the matter to *Cortez*, & required that the voyage shoulde be set forth betwixte them, knowing that *Cortez* had two thousand Castlyns of gold in the power of one *Andres de Duero*, a merchaunt, and also that *Cortez* was a man diligent, wise, and of stoute courage. *Cortez* being of haughtye stomacke, accepted both the voyage and the charges, thinking the cost would not be much .&c. So

that the voyage and agréement was concluded, whervpon they sent one *Iohn de Sanzedo* to the kings coūsel and chauncery, resident in the Iland of *Santo Domingo*, who were then religyous persons to haue and obtain of them licence, fréelye to goe and traffike into those parties of newe discoverie, and also to séeke for *Iohn de Grijalua*, for they imagyned that wythout hym small trafficke woulde bee hadde, whyche was, to exchange trifles of Haberdashe for golde and syluer. The chiefe rulers of gouernement at that tyme in y<sup>e</sup> kings counsell there, were these following, *Segniour Aloūso de São Domingo*, *Segniour Luys de Figueroa*, & *Segniour Barnardo de Munsanedo*, who graunted the licence, and appointed *Hernando Cortez* for captaine Generall of the voyage, and setter forth in company of *Iames Velasques*. They also appoynted a Treasurer, and Surueyour to procure for the kings portion or parte, whych was according to custome one fifte parte. In thys meane season *Cortez* prepared hymselfe for the Iourney, and communed wyth hys especiall friendes to sée who woulde beare hym companye: And hee founde thrée hundred men that agréed to his request. He then bought a Caruell and Vergantine, and another Caruell that *Pedro de Aluarado* brought home. An other Vergantine he had of *Iames Valesques*: he provided for them armour, artillery, and other Munition: hee brought also wyne Oyle, Beanes, Pease, and other victuals necessarye: he toke vp also vppon hys credite, of one *Iames Sauzedo* muche Haberdashe, to the value of seauen hundred Castlyns in golde. The gouernour *Velasques* deliuered vnto hym

a thousande Castlyns whyche he possessed of the goods of one *Pamfilo de Naruaiz* in hys absence, alleaging that he had no other money of hys owne proper. And beeyng in thys manner agréed, the Articles and Couenauntes were drawen and set downe in wryting, before a Notary, called *Alounso de Escalantes*, the thrée and twenty day of October *Anno .1518.*

## **The cōming home of *Grijalua***

## **The gouernour an old enemy**

## **Courage of *Cortez***

In this meane time arriued at *Cuba*, *Iohn de Grijalua*, vpon whose arriuall, the gouernour chaunged his purpose and pretence, for hee refused to disburse any more money, nor yet would consent that *Cortez* should furnish his Nauie. For the onely cause was, that he ment to dispatch backe againe his kinseman and his army. But to behold the stoute courage of *Cortez*, his charges, and liberalitie in expences, it was straunge, and to sée how hee was deceiued. And also to cōsider, the flatterie and deceite of his aduersarie, yea what complaints were made to the Lord Admiral, saying that *Cortez* was subtil, high minded, and

a louer of honor, which were tokēs that he wold rebel, being in place conuenient, and that he woulde reuenge olde griefes. Also it griued *Vermudez* that he had not accepted y<sup>t</sup> voyage, vnto whō it was once offered, seing the great treasure that *Grijalua* had brought, & what a rich land the countrey newly discovered was. Also he pretended that y<sup>e</sup> gouernor would be chieftain of y<sup>e</sup> flēet, although his kinesman were not fit for y<sup>e</sup> roome. The gouernor also thought y<sup>t</sup> he being slacke, *Cortez* would also be slacke. But yet he sēeing *Cortez* earnestly procéed, he sent one *Amador de Larez* a principal mā, to intreate him to leaue off y<sup>e</sup> voyage (cōsidering y<sup>t</sup> *Grijalua* was returned) and y<sup>t</sup> he would pay him al y<sup>e</sup> costs & charges y<sup>t</sup> he had layd out. *Cortez* vnderstāding the gouernors minde, made answere vnto *Larez*, y<sup>t</sup> he wold not leaue of the Iorney, for very shame, nor yet breake the agrément made. And also if *Valasques* would send a Nauy for his owne account, he woulde be contente, for (quoth he) I haue alreadie my licence and dispatch of the fathers & gouernours. And thē he conferred with his friendes, to knowe their mindes if that they would fauour and beare him cōpany, at whose handes he found both ready helpe and friendshippe. Hee sought then for money, and toke vp vpon his credit foure M. Castlyns in gold, of his friend *Andreas de Duero*, & of *Pedro de Xerez* & others. With y<sup>e</sup> which money he bought two ships, 6. horses, & much apparel, & began to furnish a house & kepe a good table for



cōmers & goers: he went also armed like a capitaine, & many wayting & attēding vpon him, whereat diuerse murmured, saying that hee was a Lord without rente. In thys meane whyle came *Grijalua* to the Cittie of Sainte *Iames de Cuba*: but hys kinseman the gouernour woulde not loke vppon hym bycause he had lefte and forsaken so riche a lande. Also it griued him inwardlye that *Cortez* procéded thitherward so strong and mightye, and coulde by no meanes disturbe or lette hym, and to sée the greate traine that wayted vppon hym wyth manye of them that had byn the other voyage with *Grijalua*: yea if that he should disturbe him, bloud shedde would follow in the Citie. So that he was forced to dissemble his sorow. Yet (as many affyrme) hee commaunded that hee shoulde haue no victuals solde vnto hym. Nowe *Cortez* departed from thence, proclayming himselfe for General, and that the gouernour *Valasques* had nothing to doe wyth hys Nauie, requesting his soldiers to enbarke themselues wyth such victuals as they had. He also bargayned wyth one *Fernando Alfonso* for certaine Hogges and Shéepe that were prepared for the shambles, and gaue vnto hym a chayne of golde and brouches for payment, and also moneye, to pay the penaltie that the butcher fel into for not prouiding the Cittie. And so he departed frō Saint *Iames de Baracoa* the eighteenth of Nouember, with about thrée hundred Spaniardes in sixe shippes.

# The nauie and men that Cortez caried *with him to the Conquest*

*Cortez* departed from Saint *Iames de Barocoa* with small prouision of victuals for suche a number of men, and also for the nauigation whyche as yet was vncertaine. And beeyng out of that parte, he sent *Pedro Xuarez Gallinato* with a Caruell to *Iaymaica* for vittailles, commaunding him, that those things which he should there buy, to goe therwith to *Cape de Corrientes*, or to *S. Anthonies* point, which is the farthest part of that Iland Westward. And he himselfe wente with his companie to *Macaca*, and boughte there greate quantitie of bread, and some Hogges, of one *Taymaio*. Then he procéeded to the Trinitie Ilande, and there boughte an other Shippe of one *Alonso Guillen*. And of perticulare persons he bought thrée Horses, and fiue hundred bushels of Corne. And being there at roade, he had aduice, that *Iohn Nonez Sedenio* passed that way with a Shippe laden with victuals, for to make sale thereof at the Mynes. Wherevppon he sente *Iames de Ordas*, with a Caruel well armed, for to take him, and to bring him vnto *S. Anthonies* point. *Ordas* went and tooke him at the Channell *de Iardines*, and brought him to the place appointed. *Sedenio* broughte the register of his marchandise, whiche was greate store of bread, Bacon, and Hennes: *Cortez* gaue him chaynes of golde, and other pieces for payment, and a

bil for the rest. In consideration whereof, *Sedenio* wente with him to the Conquest. In the Trinitie Ilande *Cortez* gathered togyther two hundred men more, who had bin in *Grijalua* hys company, and were dwellers in that Iland, and in *Matancas*, *Carenias*, and other Villages, and sending his ships forward, he went with his men by land to *Hauana*, which was then inhabited on the South side in the mouth of the riuer called *Onicaxinall*, but there they would sell him no prouision, for feare of the Gouvernour *Velasques*. But yet one *Christopher Galsada* rentgatherer to the Byshoppe, and receyuer for the Popes Bulles, solde to him great store of Bacon and bread of that Countrey called *Maiz*, and other prouision, whereby his fléete was reasonably prouided .&c. And then he beganne to distribute his men and vittayles aboorde eache vessell in good order. Then came *Aluarado* with his caruell, with his other friendes *Christopher de Olid*, *Alonso de Auila*, *Francisco de Monteio*, & manye others of *Grijalua* hys company, who had bin to talke with the Gouvernour *Velasques*. And among them came one *Garnica* so called, with letters for *Cortez* from *Velasques*, wherein he wrote, desiring him to abide there, for that he meant to come himselfe, or else to send vnto hym, to treat of matters profitable for them both.

### **A snare layde for Cortez**

Also, the sayd Gouvernour sente other secret letters to *Iames de Ordas* and others, requiring them to apprehende and take

prisoner *Cortez*. Nowe *Ordas* did inuite *Cortez* to a banket aboorde his Caruel, thinking by that meanes to catche *Cortez* in a snare, and so to carrie him prisoner to the Citie of *Saint Iames de Barocoa*, but *Cortez* vnderstood the matter, and fayned hymselfe to be very sicke, and also fearing some yprore, he went aboorde his Shippe Admirall, and shot off a peece of Ordinance, giuing warning to his Nauie to be in a readinesse to make sayle, and to follow him to *Saint Anthonies* poynte, whiche was done with expedition, and there in the Towne of *Guani Guaniga* he mustered his men, and found fiue hundred and fiftie Spanyardes, whereof fiftie were Marriners. He deuided them into eleuen companies, and appointed these persons following for Captaynes, that is to say, *Alonso de Auila*, *Alonso Fernandez Porto Carrero*, *Iaimes de Ordas*, *Francisco de Monteio*, *Francisco de Morla*, *Francisco de Salzeda*, *Iohn de Escalante*, *Iohn Velasques de Leon*, *Christopher de Olid*, and one *Escouar*, and he himselfe as Generall tooke one Company. He made these many Captaynes, bycause his whole fléete was eleuen sayle, and that eache of them shoulde seuerally be Captayne, both of Shippe and men. He also appoynted for chiefe Pilote *Antonio de Alamines*, who had taken charge before with *Francisco de Hernandez de Cordoua*, and *Grijalua*, &c. He carried also 200 *Indians*, borne in y<sup>e</sup> Ile of *Cuba*, to serue and to carrie baggage, & also certayne *Negros* with some *Indian* womē, and sixtéene Horses & Mares, with great prouision of Bacon, corne, bisket, hennes, wine, oyle, pease, and other fruites, w<sup>t</sup> great store of

Haberdash, as Belles, necklaces, beades of glasse, collers, points, pinnes, purses, nedels, girdels, thredde, kniues, sissers, pinsars, hāmers, hatchets, Shirts, Coyfes, headkerchiefes, handkerchiefs, bréeches, coates, clokes, cappes, Marriners bréeches, all y<sup>e</sup> which Merchādise be deuided amōg his nauie. The Ship Admiral was of the burthen of a hūdred Tunnes. Other thrée Shippes of the burthen of eightie Tunnes the péece. All the residue were small withoute ouerloppe, and vergantines. The deuice of his ensigne or aunciente, was flames of fire in white and blewe, with a redde crosse in the midst, and bordred round with letters, in the Lattine and Spanishe tonges, which signified this in effect: friends, let vs follow the Crosse, and with liuely faith with this standerde we shall obteyne victorie. The premisses (as ye haue hearde) was the furniture that *Cortez* prouided for his iourney, and with so small a thing he conquered so greate and mightie an Empire, & strange Countreys, vnknownen at that time. There was neuer Captayne that did with like army ouercome so infinite a people, & bring both thē and their coūtrei vnder subiectiō. He caried no money to pay his souldiers, but was rather much indebted to others at his departure. And to say the truth, there néeded any money to make pay to those souldiers that went to the Cōquest, for if they shuld haue serued for wages, they would haue gone to other places néere hand. But in *India*, euery one pretēdeth y<sup>e</sup> state of a noble man, or else great riches. Now all y<sup>e</sup> fléete being in readinesse (as ye haue hearde,) *Cortez* began an exhortation to his cōpany as followeth.

# **The Oration that Cortez made *to his Souldiers***

My louing fellowes and déere friendes, it is certayne that euery valiant manne of stoute courage, doth procure by déedes to make him selfe equall with the excellent men of his time, yea and with those that were before his time. So it is, that I do now take in hād such an enterprise, as godwilling shall be héereafter of greate fame, for myne heart doth pronosticate vnto mée, that we shall winne greate and rich Countreys, and manye people, as yet neuer séene to anye of oure nation, yea and (I beléeue) greater Kingdomes than those of oure Kinges. And I assure you, that the desire of glory dothe further extend, than treasure, the whiche in sorte, mortall life doth obtayne. I haue now prepared Shippes, Armor, Horses, and other furniture for the warres, with victuall sufficient, and all things that are vsed as necessary in Conquestes. I haue bin at greate costes and charges, wherein I haue not onely employed myne owne goodes, but also the goodes of my friendes, yet me thinketh that the employmente thereof dothe encrease my treasure and honor. We ought (louing fellowes) to leaue off small things, when great matters doe offer themselues. And euen as my trust is in God, euen so greater profite shall come to our kings, and a nation of this oure enterprise, than hath héeretofore of any other. I doe not speake how acceptable it will be to God

our sauour, for whose loue I do chiefly and willingly hazard my goods and trauel. I will not nowe treat of the perils and danger of life that I haue passed since I began this voyage. This I say, that good men doe rather expect renoune, than treasure. We doe now attempt and begin warre that is both good and iust, and the almighty God in whose name and holy faith this voyage is begonne, will assuredly graunte vnto vs victory, and the time will shew the end of things well begonne. Therefore we will now haue an other manner in our procéedings, than eyther *Cordoua* or *Grijalua* hadde, whereof I meane not nowe to dispute, for the presente time doth hasten vs away, but at our arriual, we will do what shall séeme vnto vs conuenient. Héere déere friends do I lay before you great gaynes, but wrapped in greate trauell, yet *Vertue* is an enimie to idlenesse .&c. Therefore if you will accept hope for *Vertue*, or *Vertue* for hope, and also if ye forsake me not, as I will not forsake you, I will with Gods help make you in shorte time the richest men that euer passed this way. I doe see you are but fewe in number, but yet such men of haughtie courage, that no force or strength of *Indians* can offende. Likewise wée haue experience, that Christ our sauour hathe alwayes fauoured our nation in these parties. Therfore my déere friendes, let vs now in Gods name depart ioyfull, exspecting good successe, according to our beginning .&c.

# **The entrance of Cortez into the *Iland of Acusamill***

## **The feare of the Indians of Acusamil**

### **Hovv the people vver found A facte vvorthy of prayse**

With the aforesayd communication, *Cortez* gaue great hope to his cōpany of waightie matters, yea and great admiration of his person, so that all his company had an earnest desire to procéede on that iorney. And *Cortez* likewise reioyced, to see his men so willing: and incontinente, they embarqued themselues, and after their prayers made vnto God, hoysed vp their sayles, and with faire winde departed the eighttenth day of Februarie Anno 1519. And beyng at Sea, he willed all his nauie (as the vse is) to haue S. Peter for their patrone, warning them alwayes to follow the Admirall (wherin he went) bycause he carried a light for the night season to guide them the way, whiche was almost East and West from *S. Anthonies* point, being the nerest part of *Cuba* to *Cape de Cotoche*, which is the first lād point of *Yucatan*, whither they were bounde, so y<sup>t</sup> being there, they might run alōg the



coast, betwene the North point and the West. The firste night y<sup>t</sup> *Hernando Cortez* begā to passe ouer the gulfe betweene *Cuba* & *Yucatan*, being little aboue ix. leagues, the winde rose vp at Northeast with much force, so y<sup>t</sup> all the Fléete were separated without sight y<sup>e</sup> one of the other: yet by the accompt that their Pilots kept, they arriued all sauing one at the Ilande of *Acusamil*, although not at one time, and those that last ariued, wer the Admirall, and Captayne *Morla* his Ship, who had lost his Ruther, but by shoting off a pece, *Cortez* vnderstood his necessitie, and came vering to him, and amayned his sailes to succour him, being in y<sup>e</sup> night season. Yet when the day appeared, it pleased God y<sup>t</sup> the rage of the tempest ceased, & being cléere day, they found agayne their Ruther, and trimmed the Ship, and made sayle, and sayled that day and the next following, without sighte of land, or any of the Fléete. But the third day they arriued at a cape or point of land, called Womens cape. *Cortez* cōmanded *Morla* to follow him, directing his course to séeke the residue of his Fléete, and arriued in this sorte at the Iland of *Acusamil*, and there found all his nauie excepte one, whereof they hearde no newes in many dayes after. The people of that Ilande beholding suche a straunge sight, were in great feare and admiratiō, so that they gathered their stufte and wente vp into the Mountaynes. *Cortez* caused a certayne number of his mē to goe a land to a Towe which was néere the place where they were arriued, and they fōūd the towne wrought with Masons worke, and good building, but they founde

no creature therein, yet in some houses they found cloth made of cottē woll, and certaine Jewels of gold. Also they entred into a high tower made of stoneworke, néere the sea side, and there they founde nothing but Idols of earth and stone. With this newes they returned to *Cortez*, and enformed him what they had séene, and also many faire sowē fields of *Maiz*, and great store of hiues of Bées, and many trées of fruited, and also presented vnto him the gold and other things that they had found. *Cortez* reioyced with y<sup>e</sup> newes but yet maruelled that the people were fledde, considering that when *Grijalua* was there, they had not so done, wherby he iudged, that his nauie béeyng greater, caused them to feare and flie, and likewise he feared least a snare were prepared for him. Then he cōmanded to vnship his Horses for thrée causes: the one to discover the Countrey: and the other to fight if néede were: and also to grase thē, hauing there abūdance. Also he vnshipped his mē of warre, and sent them to discover the land. And in the thickest of the Mountaynes, they found four women, and thrée childrē, whome they brought to *Cortez*, so that not vnderstanding their language, by signes & tokens they ymaged that one of thē was the mother to the children, & mistresse to the other women. The pore creatures bewayled theyr captiuitie. *Cortez* made muche of them, & apparrelled the mistresse as wel as he might with Spanish attire: and to hir seruants he gaue loking glasses and sissers: and to the little children other toyes to play withall, vsing no dishonestie towards thē. And thē he determined to send one of the wenches to call hir maister, and to enforme him how well

they were intreated. In this meane season came certaine spies lurking a farre off, by the cōmandement of their Lord, who was called *Calachuni*, to bring newes of his wife, & what else passed. *Cortez* receyued them gētly, & gaue vnto them certayne trifles, and sent others to their Lord, and returned thē w<sup>t</sup> embassage on his behalfe & his wiues, to desire hym to come vnto him, and to sée those folke from whome he had fledde, promising, that neyther his person, nor none of his countrey should receyue anye molestation of him, nor of any of his company. *Calachuni* vnderstāding this friendshippe, and also with the loue hēe bare to his wife and childrē, came the next day following with all the Townesmen, in whose houses y<sup>e</sup> Spanyards were lodged, who woulde not permitte that their guestes should giue place. And the Lorde commaunded, that they should be wel entertayned, and frō that day forward prouided them of bread, fishe, honey, & fruite. *Calachuni* spake and saluted *Cortez* with greate humilitie and ceremonie, and euen so was he louingly receyued, & wel entertained. *Cortez* did then declare vnto him the commoditie that would ensue vnto him by that nation. And also presented vnto him & his cōpany many toyes, which were vnto thē of small valewe, but muche estéemed among them, yea more than golde. And moreouer *Cortez* cōmaunded, that all the golde and other things that his men had taken in the Towe, shoulde be broughte before him, and placed it so, that euery *Indian* knewe his owne, and was restored vnto them, whereat they were not a little ioyfull, wondering at the liberalitie of the straungers,

and departed both merrie and riche with their straunge giftes, and went throughout al the Iland, shewing to their fellowes their presentes, commaunding them in the name of *Calachuni* their Lord, to returne euery man to his house, with ther wiues and children, commending highly the honest and gentle nature of the straungers. With this newes and commaundemente, euery man returned to his house and Towne from whence he had fledde. And after thys sort their feare was past, and they prouided the Camp abundantly of honey, bread, waxe, fishe, and frute, all the time that they abode in that Iland.

# The Indians of Acusamil gaue nevves *to Cortez of certaine bearded men*

## Nevves of bearded men

Now *Cortez* seeing these *Indians* quiet and wel pleased, and also very seruiceable, he did determyne to take away theyr Idols, and to giue them a remembraunce of Iesu Christ borne of the Virgin Mary, by one *Melchior* a fisher man and very rustical, who had bin ther before with *Francisco Hernandez de Cordoua*, who declared vnto them, that *Cortez* his Lord and captaine would enforme them of a better god, and better lawes, than those which they maintained. The *Indians* answered, that they were contented therewith, and went with them vnto their temples, and there brake downe their Idols, and celebrated diuine seruice, teaching them to adore and worshippe Christ crucifyed, so that they were verye attentiuē to the doctrine, and ceased sacrificise of men which they were wōt to vse. These *Indians* did wonder much at the shippes and horses, yea and marueyled as muche at our colour and beardes, so that many times they would come and féele them, and signified vnto them by signes and tokens towards *Yucatan*, that there were fiue or sixe bearded men. Then *Cortez* considering how profitable it wold be to haue an interpreter to

vnderstand and to be vnderstood, he besought *Calachuni* that he would appoint a messenger to carrye a letter to the bearded men, who were in the power of a great Lord and Tyrant, and *Calachuni* found none that durst take that iourney in hand, fearing that they should be slaine and eaten. *Cortez* seing this, entreated with faire words, thrée of the *Indians* that serued him to accept the iourney, and gaue thē rewards for theyr labour: yet the *Indians* excused them, saying that they should be slayne, notwithstanding with faire promises and rewardes, they accepted the voyage, so that *Cortez* wrote with them this letter following.

Worshipful sirs, I departed from *Cuba* with eleuen saile in my fléete, furnished with fiue hundred and fiftie Spaniardes, and I arriued here at *Acusamil* from whence I write you this letter. The people of this Ilād haue certifyed me, that there is in that countrey fiue or sixe bearded men, and in al pointes like vnto vs: they can not here enforme me of anye other signes or tokens, but hereby I do coniecture, and certainly beleue that ye be Spaniards. Both I and these gentlemen of my company do come to discouer and inhabit this land, we hartily pray you y<sup>t</sup> within sixe days after the receite hereof, ye come vnto vs, w<sup>t</sup>out any excuse or delay, and if ye so doe, al we of this nauie wil gratifye your gentlenesse & good seruice y<sup>t</sup> ye shal do vnto vs. I do send you a Vergantyn wherein you may come, & two shippes for your safeconduct.

*Hernando Cortez.*

This letter being written, there was found an inconuenience,

which was, they knew not how to carrye the letter so secretly y<sup>t</sup> it might not be séene, & they taken for espies, wherof the saide *Indians* stooode in great feare. Thē *Cortez* bethought him, y<sup>t</sup> the letter wold passe wrapped in y<sup>e</sup> haire of the head of one of thē, for ordinarily the *Indians* wear lōg heare, & on their solemn feasts & in wars they vse their haire platted & boūd about their forheads. And he appointed capitaine of the Vergantine wherin y<sup>e</sup> messēgers wēt, *Iohn de Escalante*, & *Iames de Ordas* for capitaine of the other two ships, with fiftie men if any nede should happen. So shortly after the ships arriued at the place appointed, *Escalante* set a land his messengers, and abode there eight days they returne, although he promised thē to abide there but sixe dayes. And thē séeing that they came not, he surmysed y<sup>t</sup> they were either slaine or taken captiues: & so returned backe againe to *Acusamill* without his messēgers, wherof al the army were sorowful, & chiefly *Cortez*, thinking that the *Indians* had wrōg enformed him. Nowe in this meane season they trymmed their shippes of the hurte receiued by the late tempest, & at the returne of the two ships and Vergantyne, they hoysed vp sailes and departed.

## A miraculous chaunce how Geronimo de *Aguilao* came to Cortez

*Calachuni* and all his subiectes were full of heauinesse (as it semed) with the departure of the Christians, bycause they were wel vsed at their handes. From *Acusamil* the fleete sayled to get the coast of *Yucatan* to the cape called Womens point, with prosperous weather, & there *Cortez* came to an Anker, desirous to see the disposition of the lande, and the manner of the people: but it liked him not, so that y<sup>e</sup> next day folowing being shrouetuisday, he departed, meaning to double the sayde cape, and so to passe to *Cotoche* and to viewe it. But before they hadde doubled the poynte, *Peter de Aluarado* shotte off a piece, in token that hee was in great peril, wherevppon the other shippes drewe neare to knowe what hadde happened: And when *Cortez* vnderstoode that *Aluarados* shippe was in so great a leake that with two pumpes they mighte not emptie the water, he found no other remedy but to returne backe again to *Acusamil* with al his fléet. The *Indians* of y<sup>t</sup> Ilande came incontinent to y<sup>e</sup> water side very ioyfull, and to knowe whether they had left any thing behind thē. The Christiāns enformed thē of their mishap, and came a shore, & in short time found the leake & amended it. The Saterdag folowing they toke shipping again, al the army excepte *Hernando Cortez*, and fiftie of his company, then the wind arose



contrary, and so much, that they could not departe that day: & the furie of the winde endured al that night, but in the morning it waxed calme, so that they myghte proceede on their voyage. But for as much as that was the Sabbath daye, they determined to heare diuine seruice, and after dinner to make saile. When their seruice was ended, and *Cortez* sitting at his meate, there was newes brought him that a little vessell called a *Canoa*, came vnder saile toward the shippes, whiche seemed to come from *Yucatan*: with that newes *Cortez* arose from his meate, to behold whether the *Canoa* went, and perceiuyng that she left the way toward the shippes, he sente *Andrew de Tapia* with certaine others, as secrete & closely as might be deuised, to lye in ambushe for their comming a shoare. The *Canoa* arriued in a calme place, out of the which came foure men all naked, except their priuie members, and the heare of their heades platted and bound aboute their foreheades like vnto women, with bowes and arrowes in their hands: three of them which were *Indians*, wer afraide when they saw the Spaniards with their drawen swordes, and would haue fled againe to their *Canoa*, but the Christian feared not, and desired his fellowes in the *Indian* tong to abide with hym. And then he began to speake in the Spanish tongue in thys wise: Maisters are ye Christians, yea (quoth they) and of the Spanish nation. Then he reioyced so much, that the teares fell from his eyes, and demaunded of them what day it was, although he had a Primer wherein he dayly prayed.

## The cōming of Aguilar to Cortez

He then besought them earnestlye to assist him with their prayers & thanksgiuing vnto god for his deliuary, & kneling deuoutly downe vppon his knees, holding vp his handes, his eyes toward heauen, and his face bathed with teares, made his humble prayer vnto God, giuing most hartie thanks, that it hadde pleased hym to deliuer him out of the power of Infidels and infernal creatures, and to place hym among Christians and men of his owne nation. *Andrew de Tapia* holpe hym vppe, and toke hym in hys armes, and so did al y<sup>e</sup> others embrace & louingly salute him. Then he commaunded the other thrée *Indians* to follow him, and went talking wyth hys friendes, where *Cortez* aboade, who receyued him ioyfully, and gaue vnto hym such apparel as he néeded, and wyth great pleasure hauing him in his companye, hee demaunded the estate of his misfortune, and what was hys name, who aunswered before them al, saying, Sir my name is *Geronimo de Aguilar*, I was borne in the Cittie of *Esija* in the *Andolozia*, and by misfortune I was loste after this sorte. In the warres of *Darien* and in the time of the contentions and passions of *Iames de Nicuessa*, and *Vasco Nonez Balboa*, I came with Captaine *Valdinia* in a little Caruell, toward *Santo Domingo*, to giue aduice to the Admirall and gouernour, of the troubles which had happned, and my comming was for men and victuals: and likewise we brought twentye thousand Duckettes of the kings

in Anno .1511. And whē we apported at *Iamayca*, our Caruel was lost on the shallowes whiche were called the Vipars, and with greate pain we entred (about twenty persons) into the boate, w<sup>t</sup> out sayle, water or bread, and weake prouision of oares: we thus wander thirtéene or fourtéene dayes, and then the current, whiche is there very great & runneth alway weastward, cast vs a shoare in a prouince called *Maija*, & traueling on our way, seauen of our fellowes died wyth hunger & famin. And captain *Valdinia* & other 4. were sacrificed to the ydols by a cruel and cursed *Cacike*, that is to say, a Lord in whose power we fell .&c.

And after the sacrifice, they were eaten among the *Indians* for a solemne banquet: and I, and other sixe wer put into a Cage or coupe, to be fatned for an other sacrifice. And for to escape suche abhominable death, we brake the prison and fledde through certaine mountaines: So that it pleased God that wee mette with another *Cazike* who was enemy to him that first toke vs, his name was *Quinqu*, a man of more reason and better condition, hee was Lord of *Xamansana*: he accepted vs for his captiues, but shortly after he dyed, and then I aboad with *Taxmar* his heire. Then deceased other fiue of our fellowes, so that there remayned but onely I and one *Gonsalo Guerrer*, a maryner, who now abydeeth with *Nachancan* the Lorde of *Chetemal*, and he married with a rich gentlewoman of that countrey, by whom he hath children, and is made a Captaine, and wel estéemed with the *Cazike* for the victories y<sup>t</sup> he hath had in the wars against the other Lords. I sent vnto him your worships letter, desiring him that he would

come with me hauing so fit a passage, but he refused my request, I belieue for verye shame, bycause hee had his nose ful boarded of holes, & his eares iagged, hys face & handes painted according to the vse of y<sup>t</sup> countrey, or else he abode there for the loue he bare to his wife and children. All those whiche stooode by & hard this Historie, were amased, to heare *Geronimo de Aguilar* report howe those *Indians* did sacrificise & eate mans flesh. They also lamented the miserie & death of his fellowes, and highly praysed God, to see him frée frō his bondage & from such cruel & barbarous people, & to haue likewise so good an enterpreter with thē, for vndoubtedly it semed a miracle y<sup>t</sup> *Aluarados* ship fel into a leak, for with y<sup>t</sup> extremity they returned back again to that Iland, wheras with contrarie winde they were constrayned to abide y<sup>e</sup> cōming of *Aguilar*. And certainly he was y<sup>e</sup> mean & spéech of al their procéedings. And therfore haue I bin so proluxious in y<sup>e</sup> rehearsal of this matter, as a notable point of this historie. Also I wil not let to tell how the mother of *Geronimo de Aguilar*, became mad .&c.

When she hard y<sup>t</sup> hir son was captiue among people y<sup>t</sup> vsed to eate mās flesh, & euer after whē she saw any flesh spitted or roasted, she would make an open outcrie, saying, oh I miserable woman, behold this is the flesh of my dearebeloued sonne who was all my comfort.

# The Iland of Acusamil

The *Indians* naturall of that countrey do cal their Ilande *Acusamil*, & corruptlye *Cosumel*. *Iohn de Grijalua* was y<sup>e</sup> first Spaniard that apported there, and named it the holy Roode, bycause hee fell in sighte therof on holy roade daye. It cōtayneth ten leagues in length & thrée leagues in breadth, although some say more, some lesse: it standeth twentye degrées on this side the equator, and fiue leagues from the womēs cape: it hath thrée villages, in y<sup>e</sup> which liueth nere 3 thousand mē. The houses are of stone and brick, and couered with straw & bowes, & some with tile. Their temples and towers are made of lime & stone very wel built: thei haue no other fresh water but out of welles and raine water. *Calachuni* is their chiefe Lord: they are browne people & goe naked: & if any weare cloth, it is made of cotten wool only to couer their priuie mēbers: they vse lōg hear platted & bound about their foreheads: they are great fishermē, so y<sup>t</sup> fish is their chiefest foode & sustenance, they haue also *Maiz* which is for bread: also good fruites: & hony, but somewhat soure: and plots for bées, which contayn .1000 hiues. They knew not to what vse wax serued, but whē they saw our mē make cādels therof, they wōdred therat. Their dogges haue Foxe faces and barke not, these they gelde and fatten to eate. This Iland is ful of high mōūtaines, & at the feete of them, good pastures, many Deare,

and wilde Boares, Connyes and Hares, but they are not great. The Spaniardes with their handguns and crossebowes provide them of that victual, fresh salt and dried. The people of this *Iland* are Idolaters, they doe sacrifice children, but not manye. And many times in stead of children they sacrifice dogges. They are poore people, but very charitable and louing in their false religion and believe.

# The religion of the people of *Acusamil*

## A straunge Idol

### The God of rayne

The temple is like vnto a square Toure broad at the foote, & steps round about it, & from y<sup>e</sup> middest vpward very straight: the top is hollow & couered with straw: it hath foure windowes with frontals and galleries. In y<sup>t</sup> holow place is their chappel, wheras their Idols do stand. The temple that stoode by the sea side was such a one, in the which was a maruellous straunge Idol, and differed muche from all the rest, although they haue manye and of diuerse fashions. The body of this Idol was great and hollow, and was fastened in that wall with lime: hee was of earth. And behinde this Idols backe was the Vesterie, where was kept ornaments & other things of seruice for y<sup>e</sup> temple. The priests had a little secret dore hard adioyning to y<sup>e</sup> Idol, by which dore they crept into y<sup>e</sup> hollow Idol, and answered the people y<sup>t</sup> came with prayers & peticiōs. And w<sup>t</sup> this deceit y<sup>e</sup> simple soules beleued al y<sup>t</sup> the Idol spake, & honored y<sup>e</sup> god more thā al

the rest w<sup>t</sup> many perfumes & swéete smelles, and offered bread and fruite, with sacrifice of Quayles bloud, and other birds, and dogges, and sometime mans bloud. And through the fame of this Idoll and Oracle, many Pilgrimes came to *Acusamil* from many places. At the foote of this Temple was a plotte like a Churchyard, well walled and garnished with proper pinnacles, in the middest whereof stode a Crosse of ten foote long, the which they adored for God of the rayne, for at all times whē they wanted rayne, they would goe thither on Procession deuoutely, and offered to the Crosse Quayles sacrificed, for to appease the wrath that the God séemed to haue agaynste them: and none was so acceptable a sacrifice, as the bloud of that little birde. They vsed to burne certaine swéete gūme, to perfume that God withall, and to besprinckle it with water, and this done, they beléeued assuredly to haue rayne. Suche is the Religiō of those *Indians* of *Acusamil*. They could neuer know the original how that God of Crosse came amōgst them, for in all those parties of *India*, there is no memorie of anye Preaching of the Gospell that had bin at any time, as shall be shewed in another place.



# The Battell and vvinning of *Potonchan*

## Policie

*Cortez* procéded with his Fléete very ioyfull, bycause he had found one of his Ships which hée thought had bin lost, & aported at the riuier *de Grijalua*, whiche in the *Indian* tong is called *Tauasco*, and anckred at the riuers mouth, fearing to enter in with the bigger vessels ouer the barre: and incontinente came manye *Indians* to gaze at them and theyr Shippes, who were armed with feathers, and suche lyke armour as they vse, séeming a farre off trimme fellows. They wondered not muche to sée oure Shyppes and menne, bycause they hadde séene before *Iohn de Grijalua* in the same Riuer. The behaiour of that people, and scituation of the Countrey, liked *Cortez* verye well, so that leauyng sufficiente garde in hys Shyppes, he manned hys Vergantynes and Boates, and carried with hym certayne pieces of Ordinance, and with force of oares he entred the Riuer agaynste the streame, whiche was verye greate, and hauyng rowen little more than halfe a league, they espyed a greate Towne walled wyth Timber, and the houses made of mudwall, couered with strawe. The Towne wall was verye strong, with loope holes to offende withall. And before oure menne came néere the Towne, they mette with

manye little Boates, whiche the *Indians* call *Tahucup*, full of armed menne, shewyng themselues desirous of battayle. *Cortez* procéded forwardes, and made vnto them signes of peace, declaring vnto them by his interpreter, that hys commyng thither was not to molest or disquiet them, but onely to take freshe water, and to buy victuals, as menne that trauelled by Sea, and stoode in néede thereof, promising good paymente for anye thing that they shoulde take. The *Indians* hearyng theyr request, promised to shewe theyr message to the Townesmen, and woulde also returne with theyr aunswere and vittayles, and so departed. In shorte space they returned againe, and broughte bread and fruite, and eyght Turkie Cockes, and presented it franckely vnto them. *Cortez* gaue them thankses, but (quoth he) the prouision that ye haue brought, is very little, for the néede that I and so manye persons which I haue within yonder greate vessels locked and shutte vp, therefore I pray you to bryng me more vittayles, or else to permitte and suffer mee and my folkes to come vnto youre Towne to séeke oure remedie.

### **Diligence of a good Captayne**

The *Indians* demaunded one nyghtes space to doe the one and the other, and departed towarde the towne. *Cortez* also went to a little Iland that standeth in the riuer, to abide their aunswere, so that eache pretended to deceyue the other, for the *Indians* demaunded that time, to the intent to carrie that night away theyr

goodes, and to put in safetie their wiues and children in the Mountaynes, and likewise to gather their men of warre to defende theyr Towne. *Cortez* also commaunded his Hargabushiers and Crossebowmen to goe a lande vppon the Ilande, and caused the Riuer vppwardes to bée soughte for way, to wade ouer, so that these thynge were done that nyghte without anye knowledge to the contrarye syde. And all those whyche abode aboorde the Shyppes, came vnto *Cortez*, and those who wente to séeke the passage, founde within lesse than halfe a league vppwardes, a place that was of depth to the girdle of a manne. And likewise founde suche couerte of wooddes, that they myghte come néere vnto the Towne, and not to bée séene.

Thys newes lyked well *Cortez*, wherevppon he appoynted two Captaynes, whose names were *Alonso de Auila*, and *Peter de Aluarado*, and to eache of them fiftie menne. The same nyghte hée sente certayne Souldyers wyth a sea compasse, to lye in ambushe in the woodde whyche stode betwéene the riuer and the towne, for two considerations. The one, bycause the *Indians* shoulde sée, that there were no moe Spanyardes in the Ilande, than were the daye before. And the other was, that hys menne hearing their watchword, shoulde assaulte the towne on the land side. And as soone as the day appeared, came eight boates of *Indians* armed, wheras oure Campe was pitched, who broughte a little victuall, saying they could get no more, bycause that the inhabitantes of the Towne were fledde, with feare of them, and their deformed vessels, desiring them to returne aboorde their

Shippes, and not to disquiet the people of that Countrey. The interpreter aunswered, that it was against humanitie to suffer them to perishe wyth hunger, yea and if they woulde heare the cause of theyr comming, they should shortly see what profite would rebound vnto them. The *Indians* replied, that they woulde take no counsell of straungers and menne whome they knewe not. Lykewise, they thoughte not good to lodge suche gwestes in their houses, for they seemed terrible, and such as would be commaunders. But if they woulde needes haue water, they mighte take riuer water, or else make welles on the shore, for so dyd they at theyr néede.

Then *Cortez* séeyng that wordes preuayled not, hée signified vnto them that he woulde enter their Towne by force, to see it and their Countrey, for to giue thereof relation to the greatest Prince in the worlde, who hadde sent them thither: requesting them to be therewith contented, considering he meante not to disquiet them: and if they would not permitte the same, he would commend himselfe to his God, and to the strength and force of hys men. The *Indians* aunswered agayne, that they shoulde depart, and not thus bragge in other mens land, for in no wise they woulde permitte them to enter their Towne. And if with this warning they would not departe, they meante to kyl both him and as many as were with him. Yet *Cortez* ceased not to vse all humanitie with those barbarous people, according to the commaundemente and instructions giuen vnto him by the King of *Castill*, whiche was, to require those people oftentimes with

peace, before the attempting of warre, or entring perforce into their Townes and Countrey, so that yet agayne he conuited them with peace, promising them libertie with good entertainment, assuring them of things profitable both for body and soule, and that they myghte accompt themselues happie with the knowledge thereof: but if now they would refuse his offer, he did then warne them to make them ready for the euening, for before the going downe of the Sunne, he did hope with the help of his God, to rest and take vp his lodging in the Towne, in despite of all the inhabitants thereof, who had refused his offer.

The *Indians* laughed at his talke, and skorning at him, they returned to the Towne, to enforme their fellowes of the pride and madnesse that they thought they hadde hearde. Then the Spanyardes wente to dinner, and hauing well refreshed themselues, they putte on their Armour, and went aboorde their Boates and Vergantines, looking for some aunswere from the *Indians*, and séeyng the Sunne decline apace, and no aunswere, *Cortez* aduised the Spanyardes that lay in ambushe in the woodde, to giue assault, and he embarqued himselfe with his rapier and Targette, gyuyng likewise assaulte with néere two hundred men, who comming néere the Towne walles, discharged his Ordinance, and lept into the water to the knées, and began valiantly to assault the walles and bulwarkes. The *Indians* séeyng their enimies so nigh vnto them, beganne to fighte with courage, shooting arrowes, throwing of dartes and stones, wherewith they hurte about twenty Spanyardes: yea, and though the fearefull

noyse of the Ordinance did many times so annoy them, being things so straunge, and neuer before séene of them, yet they fledde not from the walles, but resisted the Christians valiantlye, and suffered them not to enter the Towne that way, if they had not bin assaulted in another place. But when the Company that lay in ambush hearde the shooting of their fellowes, they began likewyse their onsette. The *Indians* knowyng nothyng what was prepared behynde theyr backes, and hauing also theyr handes full in defending the entrance by the Riuer: and the Christians fyndyng that parte of the Towne without resistance, entred in wyth a terrible noyse, killing as many as they mette. Then the Townesmen vnderstoode theyr oversyghte, and woulde haue remedied it, and fledde from the place where *Cortez* was gyuing combat, whereby *Cortez* and hys Company entred the Towne at ease, without contradiction, so that hée and the other Companie of his Souldyers mette together at the Markette place, and expulsed all the *Indians* out of the Towne, excepte those that were taken prisoners, and the carkases of the deade. Then the Chrystians soughte the spoyle, and founde nothyng but Turkie Hennes, and some thyngs wrought of Cotten wooll, but verye little Golde.

There was that daye aboue foure thousande *Indians* in fyghte and defence of the Towne: There was much *Indian* bloud shedde, bycause they fought naked, manye were wounded, and fewe Captiue. *Cortez* lodged himselfe wyth hys armie in the chiefest Temple of the Idolles, where was roome sufficiente. They kepte

that nyghte good watche, as in a house of enimies, but the poore *Indians* durst not once interrupte them. After thys forte was *Potonchan* taken, béeyng the fyrste Cytie that *Cortez* wanne by force in all hys Conquest.

# **The Battell of Cintla**

**Care of a good Captayne**

**Fortye thousande Indians**

**Perill of the Christians**

**A miracle**

Al y<sup>t</sup> nighte *Cortez* slept not, but rather occupied himselfe in carrying the wounded men, & other stuffe aboard y<sup>e</sup> Shyps, & also to disenbarke thirtéene Horses, & the residue of his mē y<sup>t</sup> he had left aboard, y<sup>t</sup> which he brought to passe before the sunne rising, although the *Tauascans* had notice thereof. Whē the sunne was risen, he had with his company made vnto God their prayers, and mustered his men, where were at that time in Campe néere fiue hundred Spanyardes, thirtéene Horses, and sixe péeces of ordinance: These Horses were the fyrste that euer came into



that Countrey, whych now is called new *Spayne*. He planted his men and munition in good order, and thus marched forwardes toward *Cintla*. The *Indians* séeyng this preparation, began also to make readie, and to place in good order fortie thousand men in fyue cōpanies: their méeting was in ploughed lande among manye déepe lakes and pondes, very daungerous to passe, so that our men by reason thereof were brought out of order. And *Hernando Cortez* with his horsemen wente to séeke a better passage, and to enclose himselfe among certayne trées on their left hand, for to set vpon the enimies when time should serue. The footemen procéeded on, and passed many marishe groundes, vntill they came to the tilled land. The *Indians* were expert in those places wher they beganne the battayle, shooting with their bowes and slings, and throwing of dartes. And although our mē did some hurt among them with their Crossebowes, hādgunnes, and Ordinance, whē they were in place to shoote, yet the *Indians* pursued our men so thicke, that they could not put them off, for by pollicie, the *Indians* of *Potonchan* hadde soughte out that place: and it is to bée thoughte that they were not barbarous, nor of small vnderstanding in warres, yet notwithstanding wyth muche payne, oure men gate out of that place, and obtayned another somewhat better, and more playner grounde, whereas they myghte vse their Ordinance, and fyghte with their weapons bodye to body. But the *Indians* béeyng so greate a number, draue our men to so narrowe a place, that they were fayne to ioyne backe to backe for theyr owne defence, yea & for all that were in

maruellous greate daunger, for they hadde no roome to vse their Ordinance, nor yet Horsemen to make them waye. They béeyng in thys perplexitie, and readie to flye, suddaynely appeared a Horseman with a speckled Horse, whome they iudged to be Captayne *Morla*, whych Horsemanne sette vppon the *Indians*, and made them retyre: and hauyng more space than before, they sette afreshe vppon the enimies, and slewe some of them. In thys meane tyme the Horsemanne vaded away, and was not séene, and wyth hys absence the *Indians* beganne afreshe, and enclosed the Chrystians in the same daunger that they were in before: then the Horsemanne appeared agayne néere oure menne, and made maruellous way among the enimies, wherevpon our menne séeyng this succoure, gaue the onset agayne with great courage, and slewe and hurt many *Indians*, but at the best season, the Horseman vanished away cleane out of sighte, and when the *Indians* sawe not the Horseman, with feare of whome they fledde, thinkyng that he hadde bin a *Centaure*, and that the Horse and man was all one incorporate, they returned agayne with liewley courage, and vsed our Christians worse than they hadde done before. Then the Horseman returned the third time, and putte the *Indians* to flight with great hurte, whom our footemē pursued with great slaughter.

Now at this instant came *Cortez* with al his company of horsemen, being wearied with the trauaile in passing such strange lakes and wildernesses, wherof the countrey is replenished. Our men being ioyful of his comming, they began to enforme him

what wonders they had sene a horseman do, which came to succour them, demanding of him which of their company it was. *Cortez* answered and faithfully assured them, that it was none of their cōpany, bicause it was not possible for any of them to come any sooner: Then they al gaue God praise, belieuing that it was a helpe sent from heauen. *Cortez* said (my deare fellows) forwards, for god is with vs. Then the horsemē set vpon the *Indians*, and with force of lance droue them out of the marish ground, and brake their mayne battel. The *Indians* incontinent left the field, and fled into the thicke wooddes, the footemen followed them, and slue aboute thrée hundred *Indians*, besides many other that were hurt. There wer aboute seauenty Spaniardes wounded with arrowes and stones.

## A sodaine disease

And whether it were with labour of the battel, or with excessiue heate, or with drinking the water of that place, there fel such a stitch in their loynes, that about a hūdred of them fel flat vpon the groūd, not able to go nor stand, their fellows being forced to carry thē on their backes. But it pleased god that the same night the payne wente frō them, being in the morning wel againe. Who séeyng themselues deliuered from so manye perils, gaue moste humble thankes to the almighty god that had miraculously deliuered them. They all agréed that thrée times they had séene the straunge horseman, with the speckled horse,

fight in their fauour, as is aforesaid, beléeuing generally it was a miracle, as certainly it did appeare, for the Christians did not alone see this thing, but also the *Indians* dyd muche note it, for the maruelous fiercenesse wherwith he came vppon them, with such great murder, that they were amased, and almoste blynde with hys bryghtnesse, being so trodden vnder hys féete. The captiue *Indians* after the battayle declared the circumstance therof.

# **The Lord Tauasco submitteth *himselfe to the Christians***

## **The Cazike enbassadours**

*Cortez* released some of hys prisoners and sent them to their Lorde, saying that it grieved him the hurt done on both parties, but the fault was theirs. And that god was witnesse of hys innocencie and also of hys curtesie offered vnto thē. But notwithstanding all that was paste, he pardoned their errour with suche condition, That if in continent or within two dayes, theyr Lorde woulde come vnto him, to yælde satisfaction of their malice and stubbornesse, and to treat of peace and friendship, warning and aduising them, that if they came not wythin the time appointed, hee woulde enter into his countrey, burning and spoyling with slaughter both great & smal, armed and vnarmed: with which message the messengers departed, and *Cortez* returned to the towne to cure his wounded men. The next day came fiftie auncient Indians to craue pardon for their offence, and also licence to bury the dead, with likewise safeconduct that their rulers and principal persons myght safely come vnto the towne. *Cortez* graunted their request, warning them to make any lyes or yet to conspire againe: and also if their lords came

not personally, he would not heare any more ambassadors: with this rigorous cōmaūdemēt & protestation they departed. These *Indians* féeling their strength woulde not preuaile, thinking the christians to be inuincible, their Lords and chiefest persons did determine to goe and visite the christians and their capitaine. And according to the time appointed, the Lorde of that town and other foure Lords his neyghbours came vnto *Cortez* with a good trayne of their vessals and seruitours, and presented vnto him, bread, turkie hennes, & frutes, with other like prouision for his host, with four hundred pieces of gold of y<sup>e</sup> value of 400. double duckets, w<sup>t</sup> other small iewels, and certaine turkie stones of small value. And twentie women slaues, to serue to make breade and dresse meate for y<sup>e</sup> whole army. He craued and beseeched *Cortez* to pardon his former offence. And to accept and receiue them into hys friendshippe. And in token of his obedience, hee and his fellowes dyd willinglye deliuer their bodies, landes and goods into his handes and power. *Cortez* did louingly receiue them, and gaue vnto them certaine trifles of his wares, whiche they estéemed much. And those *Indians* hearing the horses and mares ney, they maruelled at their neying, thinking that the horses could speake, & demaunded of the Christians what they sayd, (mary quoth they) these horses are sore offended with you bycause ye fought with them, & wold haue you corrected and chastened for your so doing. The simple *Indiās* hearing this, presented roses and Gynea Hens vnto the horses, desiring them to eate and to pardon thē.

## Certaine questions that Cortez demaunded *of the Cacike Tauasco*

Many things passed betweene our men & the *Indians*: for where the *Indians* vnderstood thē not, their behauiour was much to laugh at. And vsing conuersation with our men, & seeing they receiued no hurte of them, they brought to the towne their wiues and children, which were no smal number. And among many matters that *Cortez* communed with *Tauasco* by the mouth of *Ieronimo de Aguila* his enterpreter:

The first question was: Whether there wer mynes of gold or siluer in that countrey, and from whēce they had that small quantitye that they hadde broughte vnto them?

The secōd question was: Why they denyed him their friendshippe, more than the other captaine that had bin there the yeare before?

The third was: Why they being so many in nūber, fled from them being so fewe?

The fourth was: To giue thē to vnderstād the mightie power of the king of Castill. And last of all to giue them knowledge of the faith of Iesu Christ.

## The ansvere of the Cacike

As touching Sir (quoth he) the Mynes of gold and siluer in our country, we séeke for none, for we séeke not after treasure and riches, but we procure and desire a quiet life. And that golde which we haue, was founde by chaunce: for we know not what Mynes do mean. Yet notwithstanding further within the lande, whereas the sunne doth hide himselfe, ther the people do finde muche gold and are giuen to séeke the same.

And as touching the captaine that was here of late, we seeing the men and shippes to be such as we had neuer before seene, spake vnto them and demaunded what they would haue, they sayde that their comming was, to chaunge their merchandice for gold and nothyng else, wherefore we graunted to their request. But now séeing greater vessels and moe in number, wee feared least ye came to take our substance. And I knowing my selfe nothing inferiour to any of my neyghbours, would not permit any iniurie to be offered me, and that he and his subiectes did estéeme themselues the most valiant of men of warre in all these parties, and that none durste take away their goods, women, and children, to be sacrificed by force, wherevpon he thought to withstande those fewe Christians, but (quoth he) I founde my selfe deceiued, seeyng we could not kill any of your companye. And likewise the brightnesse of youre weapons dyd blynde vs, and the woundes you made were incurable.



But the noyse and lightning of your ordinance dyd more amase vs, than either thunder-clappes or tempest: and also the great spoyle that you made among vs therwith: likewise your straunge horses made vs greatly to wonder, to behold their open mouthes, wee feared to be swallowed. And then to consider their swiftnesse in running, we knew no creature could escape them. But y<sup>e</sup> first horse that fought with vs, put vs in marueylous feare, being but one, but when we espyed many, then all oure helpe was past, for we believed that the horse and man was al one incorporate.

# **Hovv the Indians of Potonchan brake *downe their Idols, and* *worshipped Christ crucified***

With the relation of *Tauasco*, Cortez sawe that the countrey was not for Spaniardes, nor yet he toke it a thing conueniente to settle themselues where no golde nor siluer was, or other riches. And so pretended to passe forwardes to discouer westward the lande endewed with golde. But before his departure, he declared to those new conquered *Indians*, that the Lord in whose name he and hys company had taken that iourney was king of Spayne and Emperour of Christians, and the greatest Prince in the worlde, vnto whom many kings and Princes dyd homage and obey. And that hys rule and gouernemente in iustice proceeded from God, beeing iust, holy, peaceable, and sweete, and also the *Monarchie* of the vniuersall did appertaine vnto him. And for these causes he required them to yelde themselues as his subiectes. And if they would doe so, there shoulde ensue vnto them great profite, lawes and pollicie. And as touching their religion, he declared their blindnesse & greate abuses which they vsed in worshipping many Gods, and in making sacrifice vnto them with mans bloud, yea & thinking that those images and Idols, did or coulde doe good or euill vnto them, being dūbe, without life or soule, yea

and y<sup>e</sup> worke of their owne hands. He certified them of one god maker of heauen and earth, and all creatures whom the Christians did worshippe and serue, and that all creatures ought to doe the same. In conclusion with thys doctryne they brake downe their Idols, and receyued the crosse, *Cortez* hauing first declared vnto them the great miseries that the son of God suffered on y<sup>e</sup> Crosse for mankynde. And in the greatest temple of *Potonchan*, set vp a Crosse in remēbrance of the death of Christ and celebrated the feast vpon their knees, and the multitude of *Indians* likewise, and departed to their meate. *Cortez* desired them within two dayes to come agayne to theyr diuine seruice. And that day was Palme sunday. And so they did and brought an infinite number of men women and children of other villages with them whych was straunge to behold. And there generally gaue theyr vassalship to the king of Spaine into the handes of *Hernando Cortez*, with protestation of perpetuall friendship with the Spanish nation. So that these were the fyrste vassals that the Emperour had in the new Spayne. And this feast and ceremony ended, our men toke shipping with the palme boughes in their handes. In this doynge *Cortez* deserued no lesse prayse than in his victorie, for he vsed wisdomē with manhooe in all his doings: he leftē those *Indians* with a newe faith, and the towne frēe and without hurt, he toke none for slaues, nor yet any spoyle nor exchāged his merchaundice for any thing although he abode there twentye dayes. The towne is called in the *Indian* tongue *Potonchan*, that is to saye, a place that stincketh, and our menne named it, the

victorie.

## The armor of the Indians

The Lord (as ye haue heard) was called *Tauasco*, and therefore the firste Spaniardes that came thyther, named the riuer *Tauasco*, but *Grijalua* called it after hys owne name, whose name and remembraunce will not so soone be forgotten. And truely all those that do discouer newe countreys, ought to make perpetuall their owne names. This town doth containe neare fiue and twentye thousand houses (as some say) but as euery house stādeth by himselfe like an Iland, it seemeth much bigger than it is in déede. The houses are great, made of lime stone, & bricke: others there are made of mood wal, and rafters & couered with straw or bordes. Their dwelling is in the vpper part of the house, for the greate moystnesse of the riuers and lakes, and for feare of fier, they haue theyr houses separated the one from the other. Without, the towne they haue more fairer houses than wythin for their recreation and pleasure. They are browne people, and go almost naked, and eat mans flesh sacrificed. Their weapons are bowes and arrowes, slyngs, darts, and lances. The armour wherwith they defend themselues, are Targets and skulles made of woodde or barke of trées, and some of gold very thinne. They haue also a certayne kinde of harneis made of cotten wooll wrapped aboute their stomacke.

## The good entertainment that *Cortez had in Saint Iohn de Vlhua*

Captaine *Cortez* and his company beeyng embarked, sayled weastwards as nye the shoar as thei might. And this coast hauing no harbors, they founde no place where they might Anker safely with their greater vessels, vntil they arriued vpon Mandie thursday at *Saint Iohn de Vlhua*, whiche séemed a good harbor for them. The *Indians* of this place call this harbour *Chalchicoeca*, there the fleete came to Anker. They were not so soone at Roade, but incontinente came two little boates named *Acalles*, enquiring for the Generall of the Fleete, who when they came to hys presence, dyd humble reuerence vnto him, and sayde vnto hym that *Teudilli* the Gouvernoure of that Prouince sente to knowe what people they were, and what they woulde haue, and whether they meante to stay there or procéede farther. *Aguillar* dyd not well vnderstande that language. *Cortez* caused them to come aboorde hys Shyppe, gyuyng them thanks for their paynes and visitation. Hée made vnto them a banket of Wyne and Conserua, and sayde vnto them, that the nexte day followyng hee would come alande, and talke with the Gouvernoure, whome hée besoughte not to alter him nor hys people wyth hys commyng a shore, for he meant not to molest hym, but rather to pleasure and profyte hym. To that these messengers were rewarded wyth

certayne gyftes, they eate and dranke, but yet suspected euill, although they lyked the Wyne well, wherefore they desired to haue thereof, and also of the Conserua, to presente vnto theyr Lorde, whyche was giuen them, and so departed.

The nexte daye béeyng good Friday, *Cortez* came alande wyth hys Boates full of menne, and broughte hys Horses and artillerie a shore by little and little, wyth all hys menne of warre, and two hundred *Indians* of *Cuba*, whyche serued to toyle and laboure. Hée planted hymselfe in the best scituation that hée coulde fynde among the Sandy bankes on the Sea syde, and there pytched hys Campe, and hauyng néere that place manye trées, they builte them Cotages with boughes.

## VVisedome

### The comming of the Gouvernor

#### A straunge salutation

From a little Village that was at hand, came many *Indians* to gaze at things so straunge, and the like neuer séene vnto them, and brought with thē gold to barter for suche toyes, as the two little Boates had broughte from them before. They brought

also bread and meate readie dressed after their vse likewise to sell. Oure men chaunged wyth them beadestones of glasse, looking glasses, sissers, kniues, pinnes, and suche other wares, whereof the *Indians* were not a little glad, returning home to their houses, shewing their neighbours. The ioy and pleasure that these simple soules tooke with these trifles, was so greate, that the next day they came agayne wyth other *Indians* ladē with Iewels of gold, Turkie Hennes, bread, meate, and fruite, that suffised for all the Campe, and for the same they receyued nedels, and beadestones of glasse, but the poore soules thought themselues therewith so riche, that they knewe not where they were with ioy and pleasure, yea and they thoughte that they hadde deceyued the Straungers. Nowe *Cortez* séeyng the greate quantitie of golde broughte and bartered so foolishly for trifles of no valewe, proclaymed throughout all hys host, that no Christian shoulde take any golde vppon greate penaltie, and that they shoulde all shewe, as though they knewe not to what purpose the golde serued, and that they passed not for it, bycause they shoulde not thynke that the desire thereof had broughte them thither, and so they did dissemble that great demonstration of golde, to see what was meante thereby, and whether the *Indians* hadde brought that golde, to proue whether theyr commyng was for that or no. On Easter day in the morning, came *Teudilli* the Gouvernour to the Campe, from *Cotosta* hys dwellyng place, whyche was eyght leagues from thence. He brought attendyng vpon his person foure thousande men without weapon, and the most part well clothed,

some of them with garments of Cotton, riche after their manner. And others naked, laden with victuals in great abundance, whiche was straunge to sée. *Teudilli* according to their vsance, did his reuerence to the Captaine, burning frankinsence, and little strawes touched in bloud of his owne bodye, he presented vnto him the victuals, and certayne Iewels of golde very riche and well wrought, and other things made of feathers very curious straunge and artificiall. *Cortez* embraced him in his armes, and receyued hym ioyfully, saluting all hys company. He gaue to *Teudilli* a coate of silke, a brooche, and a coller of glasse, with many other péeces of Haberdashe wares, whiche was highly estéemed of him.



# The talke of Cortez vvith *Teudilli*

## A maruellous happe

Al the former talke was had without an Interpreter, bycause *Ieronimo de Aguillar* vnderstoode not thys language, bycause it differed muche from the spéeche of the other *Indians*, whereas hée hadde bin captiue: for whyche cause *Cortez* was somewhat carefull, bicause he would largely haue discoursed with *Teudilli*. It chanced that among those twentie women giuen hym in *Potonchan*, one of them stode talking with a seruante of *Teudilli*, bycause she vnderstoode them as menne of hir owne language. *Cortez* espying this, called hir aside, and promised hir more than libertie, so that she woulde bée a trustie and faithfull interpreter betwixte hym and those *Indians*, and that hée woulde estéeme hir as his Secretarie. And further demanded of hir of what lignage she was, then she aunswered, that she was naturall of the Countrey that bordered vpō *Xalixco*, and of a towne called *Viluto*, daughter vnto riche parentes, and of the kinrede of the Lorde of that lande. And béeyng a little girle, certayne Merchantes dyd steale hir away in tyme of warre, and brought hir to be solde at the fayre of *Xicalanco*, whyche is a greate Towne néere *Coasaqualco*, not farre distant from *Tauasco*: and after this

sorte shée came to the power of the Lord of *Potonchan*. This woman was Christened *Marina*. She and hir fellowes were the firste Christians baptised in all the newe *Spayne*, and she onely with *Aguilar*, were Interpreters betwixt the *Indiās* and our men.

## The aunsvvere of Teudilli

### The disease of the Spaniardes

Nowe *Cortez* béeyng assured of hys true Interpreters, hée celebrated hys accustomed deuine seruice, and *Teudilli* wyth hym, and after they hadde dyned in *Cortez* hys Tente in presence of many *Spanyardes* and *Indians*, *Cortez* enformed *Teudilli* howe that hée was vassall to the Lord *Charles* of *Austria* Emperour of the Christiās, and King of *Spayne*, and Lorde ouer a greate parte of the worlde, whome great Kings and Princes dyd serue and obey: and that all Princes were glad to bée hys friendes for his Vertue and myghte. And hée hauyng aduertisemente of that Countrey and Lorde thereof, had sente him thither to visite hym on hys behalfe, and to enforme hym of certayne secrete matters, the effecte whereof he hadde in wrytyng. Sir (quoth *Teudilli*,) I am very glad to heare the Maiestie and Vertue of the Emperoure youre maister, but you shall vnderstande, that my Lorde the Emperoure *Melzuma* is as greate and as good a

Prince as he. And I doe muche maruell, that there shoulde bee anye so greate a Prince in the whole worlde, but yet according to youre request, I wyll certifye hym, and knowe hys pleasure, for I trust (quoth he) in the clemencie of my Prince, that youre newes and message shall bee acceptable vnto him, and you well recompensed for your paynes. *Cortez* then commaunded al his men to set themselues in order of battayle with fife and drumme, and to skirmishe before *Teudilli*. And that the horsemen shoulde runne, and the ordinaunce shotte of, to the entent that *Mutezuma* shoulde be aduertised thereof. The *Indians* did much beholde the gesture, apparell and beardes of our men, they wondered to see the horses runne, they feared the brightnesse of the swordes, and at the noyse of the ordinaunce they fell flatte to the ground, thinking that the heauens did fall. And the shippes, they held opinion was the God of the ayre called *Quezalcoualt*, whiche came with the temples on his backe, for they dayly looked for him. *Teudilli* dispatched the poste to *Mexico*, to *Mutezuma*, aduising him of all that he had seene, and demaunded golde of him for to giue vnto the Captayne of that newe people. Bicause *Cortez* had inquired of him, whether *Mutezuma* had gold or no, he answered (yes) mary quoth *Cortez*, I and my fellowes haue a certayne disease of the harte, and golde helpeth vs. This message wente from the campe to *Mexico* in one day and a night, whiche is 210. myle, and the poste caried paynted the horses and horsemen vpon them, the maner of theyr armour, and howe many peeces of ordinaunce they had, & what number of bearded men there

were: and as for the shippes he had giuē aduise as soone as they arriued, shewing the greatnesse and quantitie of them. All these things aforesayde, *Teudilli* caused to be paynted in cloth of Cotten very liuely, that *Mutezuma* mought see it. The cause that this message wente so farre in so shorte a space, was, they had certayne places that postes attended, as we may say horsepostes which gaue alwayes from hand to hande the paynted cloth: they doe runne on foote faster in this sorte, than by horsepost, and is more of antiquitie than horsepost: Also *Teudilli* sent to *Mutezuma* the garments & many other things whiche *Cortez* had giuen him, whiche things were after wardes founde in the tresorie of *Mutezuma*.

# The present and ansvvere that *Mutezuma sente vnto Cortez*

## The excuse of Mutezuma

After the message sente, and the answere promised, *Teudilli* tooke his leaue, and within twoo flight shoote of *Cortez* his campe, he caused a thousande cotages of boughes to be made, & lefte there twoo principall men as Captaynes ouer two thousande persons men and women, and then departed for *Cotosta* hys dwellyng place. The twoo Captaynes had charge to provide the Christians of all things necessarie, and the women serued to grynde their corne and make bread of *Mai*z, and to dresse theyr fishe and flesh and other victuals, and the men serued to carrie the dressed meate to the Christians cāpe, and wood, water, & grasse for the horses and al other necessities, and this they passed eight dayes. In this meane season returned the poste with a riche and gentle present, whiche was many couerlets and clothes of cotton, white, and of other colours wrought, many tuffes of feathers very fayre, and some things wrought with golde and fethers, quantitie of Iewels and pièces of golde and siluer, twoo thinne whéeles, the one of siluer whiche wayde .25. markes with the signe of the Moone, and the other whéele of golde

which wayed a hundreth markes, made like vnto the Sunne, with many leaues and beasts, a very curious peece of worke: these twoo things they helde for Gods in that countrey, & giueth thē the colours of the metall that is likest thē, euery whéele was two yardes & a half broade, and so proportionally in compasse round aboute, this present was estéemed at 20900. Ducates. This present shold haue bene giuen to *Grijalua*, if he had not so soone departed as the *Indians* reported. He also gaue vnto *Cortez* this answere, that *Mutezumas* his Lorde was very gladde to know, & to be friend to suche a mighty Prince as the king of Spayne was, and that in his time should arriue in his countrey such new people, & the like neuer séene before, & that he was readie to shew them al pleasure & honour, requesting him to sée what things he stooode in néede of for y<sup>e</sup> time that he meant to abide there, as well for himselfe as for his ships, army and deceasse, and it should be provided abundantly: yea & also if he could finde any thing in that countrey to his contentment, to present to the Emperour of Christians, he would willingly prouide it. And as touching the desire that *Cortez* had to come to visite & to haue cōmunication with him, he thought it vnpossible, bycause that he was sickly and could not come vnto the sea coast, and likewise for *Cortez* to come where he did abide, it was harde, troublesome and difficill, as well for the many and cragged mountaynes, as also the countrey, wilde, desert & without habitation, and shoulde be constrayned to suffer hunger, thirst, and other necessitie: and moreouer the enhabitaunts of much part of the way that he

should passe, were his enimies, both cruell & cursed people, and knowing thē to be his friendes, they should not escape with life.

All these excuses did *Mutezuma* by the mouth of *Teudilli* declare vnto *Cortez*, thinkyng to driue him frō his purpose & pretēded iourney, alleaging the foresayd difficulties and perils, the *Indians* did also hope that with some cōtrary weather they should be forced to leaue that coast & cōtrey. Notwithstāding this cōtradiction, so much the more desire had *Cortez* to visite *Mutezuma*, who was so great a prince in that parties, & throughly to discouer the treasure which he imagined to be there. And hauing receiued y<sup>e</sup> present, & also y<sup>e</sup> answer, he gaue vnto *Teudilli* a garmēt of his owne wearyng, and many other trifles of his Haberdash, to be sente vnto *Mutezuma*, saying that if it were for no other purpose but onely to sée so mightie and vertuous a Prince, it should be requisite and iuste to trauayle vnto his Court, how much the more, he was of duetie cōstrayned to doe the Embassage which the Emperour of Christians had willed and commaunded him to doe, for otherwyse he shoulde incurre the displeasure of the King his mayster, wherefore he besought *Teudilli* yet once agayne to aduertise *Mutezuma* of his constant determination, bycause hée shoulde vnderstande that he would not leaue off hys pretended purpose for any inconuenience that was obiected vnto him. Alleaging moreouer, that he who had cōmen 2000. leagues by sea, mought well goe 70. leagues by lande, and consideryng that he had many at his charge with small prouision, and likewise his shippes in daunger, he required

that with all expedition the messengers should be dispatched. *Teudilli* desired him to recreate himself, & not to take any grief, for as much as he himself did dayly aduertise *Mutezuma* of his procéedings, euen so with all expedition the full resolution should come from *Mexico*, although it were somewhat farre off. And as for his victuals, he shoulde take no care, for abundantly he should be prouided. And also desired him for so much as he was not well placed among those sandy bankes, that it might please him to goe with him to certayne townes aboute sixe or seuen leagues frō thence. *Cortez* refused that offer, wherevpon *Teudilli* departed, and he abode there ten dayes looking for answere from *Mutezuma*.



## Hovv Cortez knevv of discorde and *dissention to be in the Countrey*

In this meane season certayne *Indians* were espied, that went lurkyng a farre of among the sandy hilles. And those came not neare the *Indians*, that serued the Spaniarde, *Cortez* demaunded what people they were, & for what cause they went lurkyng so farre off, and came no néerer vnto them.

The twoo Captaynes answered, that they were husbandmen, that went aboute theyr husbandry. *Cortez* lyked not theyr answere, but suspected that they had tolde hym a lye: for it séemed vnto hym that those people desired to come among the Christians, and that they durste not with feare of the *Indians* of *Teudilli*, and so it was in very déede. For all that coaste and mayne lande within, as farre as *Mexico*, was full of the newes and straunge things that our men had done in *Potonchan*. Wherefore they all desired to seee them and to talke with them, but they durste not for feare of the *Indians* of *Culhua*, who are subiectes vnto *Mutezuma*, wherevpon *Cortez* sente fiue Spaniardes to call them with signes and tokens of peace. This company of *Indians* were in number twentie, and were gladde to beholde those fiue men commyng towards them, and were desirous to seee suche straunge people and shippes, wherefore they came willingly altogether vnto *Cortez* his Tente.

## The Indiās attyre

These *Indians* dyd differ muche from all the other *Indians* yet séene, for they were hygher of person, and had the grystels of theyr noses slitte, hangyng ouer their mouths, and rings of Iette and Amber hanging thereat. They had also theyr neither lippes bored, and in the holes rings of golde and turky stones, whiche wayed so muche, that their lippes hanged downe ouer theyr chinnes, and their téeth remayned bare: The whiche custome although they vsed for a brauery, it séemed a foule and vgly sighte in the Spanyardes eyes, and very lothsome.

The other *Indians* of *Mutezuma*, had theyr lippes and eares bored, with rounde stones hangyng at the iaggess thereof, yet they had not suche foule slittes in their noses, but they had suche bored holes that a manne myght put any finger of his hande through them, with rings of golde and stone hanging thereat, the euill fauoured sighte of their faces made our men to muse.

*Cortez* communed with them by hys interpreter *Marina*, to knowe from whence they were, they answered, that they were dwellers in *Zempoallan*, a Cittie distant from thence one dayes iourney, situated vpon a riuer side, and bordered vpon the Countrey of *Mutezumazin*, and that their *Cazique* or Lorde had sente them, to see what Goddes were comen in those *Teucallis*, that is to say, Temple, saying, also that they durste not come sooner, not knowyng what people they were.

*Cortez* made much of them and shewed a cheerful countenance vnto them, for they seemed very bestiall, he declared vnto them that he was gladde of theyr commyng, and to knowe the good will that theyr Lorde bare vnto him, and gaue them Haberdashe toys, and shewed them the Horses and Armour, a straunge sighte for them. And so they wente through the army looking and gasing here and there as menne amazed. And in all the tyme they abode there, they vsed no conuersation with the other *Indians*. *Cortez* enquired of *Maryna* the cause thereof, and shee sayde that those menne did not onely speake an other language, but also did appertayne to another Lorde, who was not vassall to *Mutezuma*, but by force and extortion.

*Cortez* was very gladde of that newes, for hee coniectured by the talke of *Teudilli* that *Mutezuma* had warres and enimies, wherevpon hee tooke aside thre of those *Indians* whiche seemed moste wysest, and demaunded of them by *Maryna* what Lordes there were in that Countrey: they answered that *Mutezuma* was Lorde ouer all, although in euery Cittie and Prouince was a Lorde, yet neuerthelesse all in generall dyd paye tribute and serue him as vassals, nay rather lyke slaues. But yet many of them of late dayes did reknowlege hym by force of armes, and payde vnto him suche tolle and tribute that they were not accustomed to pay, of whiche number their Lorde of *Zempoallan* was one of them, and other his neyghbours, who many tymes helde him warre to be free from his tyranny and bondage, but yet sayde they, it preuayled not, for his hoste was

greate and his warriers valiant.

*Cortez* receyued greate pleasure to finde in that countrey dissention and discorde among some Noble menne, and at deuision among themselues, thynking thereby the better to bryng his purpose to passe. He gaue thanks vnto those *Indians* for their aduise, offeryng vnto them his fauour, helpe and friendshippe, praying them to come often to his campe, and so tooke his leaue of them, with his commendations to their Lorde, and sente him certayne presents, with aduertisement, that shortly he would come and see him, yea and also serue him.

## Hovv Cortez vvent to suruey the *Countrey with foure hundreth men*

At the ende of tenne dayes came *Teudilli* backe againe, and brought certaine cloth of Cotten, and other things made of feathers well wrought for recompence of the thyng sente vnto *Mexico*, and warned *Cortez* to departe, for at that tyme there was no remedie to see *Mutezuma*, and to looke what was necessary for his prouision and furniture, and it shoulde be prouided, offeryng the same seruice at any time that hée shoulde happen to come that way. *Cortez* would not accept the offer, saying: That he would not departe from that countrey, vntill he had bothe séene and talked with *Mutezuma*. The gouernour *Teudilli* yet agayne replied, that he shoulde not contende therein, and with those wordes departed from hym. The nexte night followyng he with all those *Indians* as well men as women whiche attended to serue and prouide the Spanishe campe, wente from thence: so that in the mornyng all the cotages were emptie, where those seruitors had bene.

*Cortez* suspecting this alteratiō prouided himselfe with preparation for battayle, & finding the matter contrary to his expectation, he deliberated to seeke a sure roade or harbor for his nauie, & also a good plotte or situation to buylde vpon, for then he fully meant to obtayne perpetuitie & to conquere the lande, considering y<sup>t</sup> he had found such great tokens of gold, plate, &

other riches, & thereabout within a whole league cōpasse was no fit place for y<sup>e</sup> purpose: for why? all was sandy ground, & such as tossed too & fro with the winde, with other morish groūd not méete for habitation. In consideration wherof he sent *Francisco de Monteio*, with two vergantines, and fiftie men, to runne along the coast, vntill they should finde some reasonable poart and good scituation to build vpon.

*Monteio* procéded on his voyage, and sayled in sighte of lande, vntill he came to *Panuco*, withoute finding anye port or harbor, sauing the shadowe of a Rocke, whyche stooke somewhat distant from the land a sea boord, so that at thrée wéekes ende he returned backe agayne with the foresayde newes. Hauling runne so little a way, he fell into suche terrible currants, that although he made waye wyth oares and sayles, yet the sayde Currant forced hym backe agayne. Also he broughte newes, that the *Indians* of that coast did let themselues bloud, offering the same vnto them vpon little strawes, in token of friendship or deitie.

The relation of *Monteio* contented not *Cortez*, yet notwithstanding he pretended to goe to the shade or succoure of the Rocke, bycause hée was enformed, that néere that place, was two fayre Riuers, wyth store of wooddes, necessarye for tymber and fyre woodde, greate quantitie of stones to builde with, fayre pastures, and ground for tyllage, although the harbour was not sufficiente for hys Nauie and contratation, bycause that roade was without defence, and open vppon the Northe, which is the winde that most ruleth with greatest hurte vpon that coast.

And also considering that *Teudilli* and hys menne were departed, fearing also the want of victuals, and likewise, that hys Shyppes myghte perishe vppon the shore, he commaunded to lade aboorde all theyr stuffe, and hée wyth foure hundred menne, and all his Horses, followed on the hygh way that the *Indians* hadde gone.

After hée hadde iourneyed thrée leagues, hée came to a fayre vadeable Riuer, and passing ouer the Riuer, hée found a towne not inhabited, for the inhabitantes thereof were fledde with feare: he entred into a great house, which séemed the place of the Lorde of the Towne, built with timber and earthen walles, the foundation whereof was raysed with handie worke, about a fadome high: the rooffe was couered with strawe, but of a fayre & strange workemanshippe inwardes, with many greate pertitions, some full of pottes of honey, and Maiz, with other grayne whiche they kéepe in store all the yeare: other roomes had cloth of Cotten wool, wrought with feathers, golde and siluer.

*Cortez* commaunded Proclamation to be made, that none of his company shoulde take any thyng away, vppon payne of deathe (onely victuals excepted) to the intende to obtayne the good will and friendship among the *Indians*.

There was in that Village a Temple, whiche hadde a little Tower with a Chappell on the toppe, and twentie steppes to come vnto the Chappell, where they found some Idolles, and many bloody papers, and much mans bloud of those which hadde bin sacrificed, as *Marina* dyd certifie.

They found also the blockes wherevpon they vsed to cutte open the menne sacrificed, and the razors made of Flint, wherewyth they opened their breastes, and plucked out their heartes béeyng aliue, throwing them vppe toward Heauen as an offering, and after this done, they annoynted their Idolles, and the papers they offered, and then burned them.

This sight put a great compassion, yea and a feare among our *Spanyards*, who did beholde these things. From this Village they went to other thrée or foure, and found none aboue two hundred houses, and all without people, yet well prouided with victuall, as the firste towne was. *Cortez* returned from thence to discharge his Shippes, and to take order to sende for moe men: and with desire to beginne habitation, in these affaires he occupied hymselfe tenne dayes.



## Hovv Cortez rendred vp his charge *and office with pollicie*

When *Cortes* was come where his Ships were, and the residue of his company, hée began this talke, saying:

Now my louing friends and fellowes, ye doe sée what greate mercy God hathe shewed vnto vs, in bringing vs safe and in health to so good and riche a Countrey, as by manifest signes and tokens we haue alreadye séene, yea and howe plentifull of meate, inhabited of people, better clothed, and of more iudgement and reason, than the others whiche ye haue séene, since your firste comming: also better buildings, fieldes of grayne and corne: yea and it is to be thought, that the things not yet séene, doe surmount all that hithervnto ye haue playnely séene. Wherefore wée ought to giue most hartie thanks vnto God, and to beginne oure habitation héere, whereas we shall enioy the grace and mercy of God. And to bryng this matter to passe, me thinke best that we abide héere, vntill we may finde a better port or scituation. Also that we make a wall or Castell for oure defence, if néede shoulde happen, for the people of this land hath little ioy of our comming and abiding héere.

It was then considered that frō that place they might the sooner haue friendshippe and contractation with the *Indians* and Townes nexte adioyning, as *Zempoallan*, and others whyche were enimies

to *Mutezuma*, and béeyng in this order once placed, they myghte discharge their Shyppes, and sende them incontinent to *Cuba*, *Santo Domingo*, *Iamayca*, *Borriquen*, and other Ilandes, or else to *Spayne* for more men, armour and Horsses, and for clothing and victuals.

## **Policie**

Moreouer, it was thought iust and méete, to sende relation of all their procéedings to the Emperoure theyr King and maister, with the demonstration of golde, syluer, and other riches, which they had in their power.

And bycause all these things should be done in good order, *Cortez* determined as Captayne generall, to appoint a Counsell, Aldermen, and Iudges.

And also ordeyne all other offices that shoulde be necessary and néedefull to rule and gouerne a Citie, whych he then pretended to edifie and erecte, the whiche Magistrates should fully commaund, vntill such time that the Emperour should otherwise prouide in matters conuenient for his seruice.

## **A good subiecte**

After this diligence put in vre, he solemnely tooke possession of all y<sup>e</sup> land, in the name of the Emperour *Charles* King of

*Castill*, with all the actes and ceremonies, as to such a matter apperteyned. And demaunded of *Francisco Fernandez* notarie appoynted, that he shoulde gyue vnto him by testimonie in writing, all the actes done therein. All his company aunswered, that they did very well allowe hys procéedings and praysed, and also approued hys determination, besieching hym to procéede accordingly, sithence they were come to serue and obey hym. Then *Cortez* named Iudges, Aldermen, Attorney, Serieant, Notary, and Towneclearke, and all other officers apperteyning to the good gouernement of a Citie, in the name and behalfe of the Emperoure hys naturall Lord, and delyuered incontinent to the Iudges white roddes to beare in their handes in token of Iustice, and named the newe Citie to be builde, The ryche Towne *De la vera Crux*, bycause that one goodfriday they had entred into that land. After these things finished, *Cortez* began before y<sup>e</sup> saide Notary, another act in presence of the iudges, who were *Alounso Fernandez Portocarero*, and *Frācisco de Monteio*, in whose handes he made cession, and dyd desyst from all rule and offices whiche heretofore he had receiued, which was his gouernership, captainseship and general discouerer, receiued in the Chauncerie of *Santo Domingo*, at the handes of the presidentes, who were there chiefe of the kings counsell, and presidents, likewise he protested not to vse the power and aucturity of the gouernour of *Cuba*, Admirall of *India*, for so much y<sup>t</sup> now none of them had any rule or gouernement in that Countrey which he and his fellowes had newly discouered, and

begun to enhabite in the name of the king of Castil, as his naturall subiectes. The which auctoritie he likewise required to be set downe in recorde, and to haue a copie of the same.

## **Hovv the soudiours chose *Cortez for Captaine generall, and chiefe ruler in Iustice***

Al the newe officers toke possession and charge of their offices, and entred into the towne house to counsel according to the vse and custome of Castill. In the which congregation or counsel then holden, many matters were had in question as touching the good gouernemente of the common weale. And among many other things, they al agréed to electe *Hernando Cortez* for captaine generall and chiefe Iustice, and to giue vnto him full power and authority for all matters appertayning to the wars and conquest, vntill such time as the Emperour should otherwise prouide: with this determination the next day following al the Aldermen, Iudges, and Counsellers, went vnto *Cortez*, and sayde vnto him: Sir we haue greate neede of a guide and captaine for the warres to procéde vppon the conquest of this countrey, wherfore vntil such time as y<sup>e</sup> Emperour shall prouide therein, they all besought hym to accepte that office and charge, approuing him a man most fit for the same, both to rule and gouerne, for y<sup>e</sup> great experience that they had séene of his courage, wisdome, and pollicie, and by Vertue of their offices, did cōmaund him to accept the same, saying, that in so doing,

God and the king shoulde bee faithfully serued. And they woulde thankfully gratify the same, knowing that at his hands they should be ruled with iustice, vsed with humility, & be preserued with diligence and strength. And for that purpose, they had chosen him for that office, giuing vnto him their ful & whole authority, submitting thēselues vnder his hands, iurisdiction & defence. *Cortez* accepted y<sup>e</sup> charge at smal entreating, for he desired nothing so much.

## Liberality

And being in this sort elected general, the counsel said vnto him. Sir you do wel vnderstād, that vntil such time as we shal bee better planted in this countrey, we haue not wherwith to maintaine our selues but only w<sup>t</sup> suche things as are aboard our shippes. Therfore it may please you to commaund it to be brought ashore, and that you take therof what shal seme good vnto you, for your houshold and familie, and the residue may be taxed at a reasonable price, and so to be deuided among them: & for payment they wold al binde thēselues, or else y<sup>t</sup> presently it should be deducted out of the stocke, after that the kings fift parte were subtracted. Likewise they desired him to value his ships and artillery, bycause they would make like payment for the same, and that frō thence forwards the ships should serue in common, for to passe to the Ilāds for bread, wine, clothes,

weapons, horses, and other things which should be néedeful for the new towne and army, for therby they mought be better cheape prouided than if merchants should prouide them, consideryng alway they seke for excessiue gaine, saying that if it would please hym to accepte thys offer and request, they would thankfully requite the same. *Cortez* aunswered, that at y<sup>e</sup> time he made his preperation and furniture in *Cuba*, he ment not to sel his prouision as others vsed to do, but he would and did frankly giue it vnto them, although hee had spent his goods and indetted himselfe therin. And incontinent he commaunded the maisters of the ships and pursers, to bring a lād al their victual to the town house, requiring the Aldermen to deuide it equally, to euerye man his part, without making any difference of him or of any other, for (quoth he) in time of neede of victuals y<sup>e</sup> yongest hath as much allowance as the eldest. And although I am indetted and do owe more than seauen M. Duckets, I giue this victuall al frankly vnto you. And as cōcerning the ships, I wil do y<sup>t</sup> which shal be most cōueniēt for you al. And (quoth he) I wil determin nothing to be done with thē, but wil first giue you aduertisemēt of the same.

Al this did *Cortez* for to get their loue and fauour, bycause there were many that loued hym not, althoughe in very trouth he was of his own nature liberal and large in experiences with al his souldiers in the warres.

## The receiuing of Cortez into *Zempoallan*

For as much as the situation there was not conuenient to place the newe worke, they determined to go from thence, to *Aguiahuitlan*, which standeth nere the shadowe of the rocke that *Monteio* had informed them of, wherevppon *Cortez* commaunded the shippes to depart, for that place. And he with his foure hundred men and horses would goe by land, and there mete thē, which may be about ten leagues iorney. In this order the fléete departed, and likewise *Cortez* with his company toward *Zempoallan* which stoode directly weastward. And after he had iourneyed three leagues he came to the riuier which deuided the Lordshippe of *Mutezuma* and *Zempoallan*, & could finde no passage, wherefore he was forced to returne to the seaside, where with muche adoe they passed ouer, and so trauayled on that side of the riuier, & found cotages of fishermen and other poore houses, and some sowed ground, and procéeding on their iorney at length they came into very faire valleys, wher was great store of deare, and stil they went along the riuier side, hoping to finde some good towne, and in short space, they espied neare twenty persons vppon the toppe of a hill, *Cortez* commaunded foure of his horsemen to fetch them vnto him, willing thē to make signes of peace vnto them, but if they flie (quoth he) then follow them,



untill you ouertake them, for they shall stand vs in steade, as wel to lead vs the way as to serue vs for enterpreters.

## Simplicitie

The horsemen tooke on theyr way, and when they came to the hill toppe, they made signes of peace vnto them, but the poore and fearefull *Indians* fledde with spéede, yea being amased and in great feare to beholde suche a monstrous thyng as a horseman, beleuyng assuredly, that horse and man was one thing incorporate, but in theyr flight they were soone ouertaken, and they yéelded themselues, and so were all brought vnto *Cortez*.

These men had in their eares and noses bored holes, with rings of golde hangyng thereat, for so was the vse of *Zempoallan*: they enformed *Cortez* that the Cittie was neare at hande. *Cortez* demaunded the cause of their comyng thither, they answered to behold and see so straunge a sight, but why fledde you then (quoth he?) for feare only sir sayde they, of people which we knew not. Then *Cortez* willed them to put all feare aside, and tolde them that he with his small company would goe vnto their Cittie to visite their Lorde, and to be acquaynted with him: the *Indians* sayde, that the day was farre spent, and that it was late to goe that night to *Zempoallan*, but if it pleased hym they would conduct him to a village whiche stode on the otherside of the Riuer and within sight, and although it were but a small village, yet there was reasonable lodging with meate

sufficiente for his armie: their counsell séemed well, so they wente to that village, and when they were comen thither, the *Indians* craued license to goe & to aduertise their Lorde how the straungers abode in that place, promising to returne the nexte day with answeere. Some of the *Indians* had licence to do the message, the others abode there, attendyng and providing for the newe gestes, & in this order they were al lodged and their supper abundantly provided. That night *Cortez* fortified himselfe as strong as mought be, and the nexte morning came a hundreth men laden with Hennes, saying that their Lord much reioyced of their comming, and bicause he was so grosse and vnwealdie, he came not personallie vnto him, but yet notwithstanding he abode in the cittie expecting his comming. *Cortez* friendly welcomed them, and with that presente, he and his company brake their faste, and then proceeded with his guides in good order with two fauconets in readinesse, if néede should happen: and from that passage of the riuer they had a faire way vntil they came to another riuer, which being likewise waded ouer, they discried *Zempoallan*, whiche stode a myle distant from them, all beset wyth fayre Orchardes and Gardens, verye pleasaunte to beholde: they vsed alwayes to water them with sluses when they pleased.

There procéded out of the Towne many persons, to behold and receyue so strange a people vnto them. They came with smiling countenance, and presented vnto thē diuers kinde of Floures, and sundry fruites, which none of our menne had

héeretoforeséene. These people came without feare among the Ordinance, with this pompe, triumph and ioy they were receiued into the Citie, which séemed a beautifull Garden: for the trées were so gréene and high, that scarsely the houses appeared.

## **Mens folly vvith a great lyr**

At the Citie gate stooke many graue persons of nobilitie, as Magistrates of the Citie, who solemnely welcomed the Strangers. Sixe Horsemen, which hadde gone before the army to discouer, returned backe as *Cortez* was entring into the Citie, saying, that they had séene a great house and Court, and that the walles were garnished with siluer. *Cortez* commaunded them to procéede on, willing them not to shew any token of wonder of any thing that they should see. All the stréetes were replenished with people, whiche stooke gaping and wondering at the horses and straūgers. And passing through a great market place, they saw on their right hande, a great walled house made of lyme and stone, with loupe holes and towers, whited with playster that shined lyke siluer, being so well burnished and the sunne glistering vpon it. And that was the thing that the Spaniards thought had bene walles of siluer. I doe beléeue that with the imagination and great desire whiche they had of golde and siluer, all that shined they déemed to be the same mettall.

## A vigilant Captayne

Within this great house was a long row of lodgings, and on the other side six or seven Towers one higher than another. They proceeded on, dissimulating the error of the silver walls, and followed their guide until such time as they came to the Lordes lodging, who came forth accompanied with many ancient persons, and better attired than the other Citizens were, with two Gentlemen that ledde him by the armes. They saluted each other according to the use of their countreys, and then entered into the palace, where certain principall men conducted *Cortes* and all his traine to their lodging, and Captayne *Cortes* was lodged in the house which had the glistening walls, situated in the market place, which house was sufficient for him and all his company. And when they were placed, and beheld the walls, they were ashamed of their owne folly: for where they thought those walls had bene adorned with silver, they founde them cleane contrary. *Cortes* deuided his men, caused his horses to be trimmed, and planted his ordinance at his dore, making himselfe as strong as though he had bene in campe and néere his enemies. And commaunded, that none of his men shoulde goe out of the house without his expresse licence vpon payne of death. The officers of the Lord prepared a plenteous supper for them, and bedding according to their use.

## The talke that the Lorde of *Zempoallan had with Cortez*

The nexte day in the mornyng came the Lorde, to visite *Cortez* with an honorable company, and presented vnto him many garmēts wrought of Cottē wolle, according to their fashion, with a knot on the shoulder like vnto the Egiptian garments, and certaine iewels of golde that might be worth two thousande Ducates, besechyng both him and his cōpany to recreate themselues and take their reste, and at that present he meante not to trouble him with any matters: And so tooke his leaue for that time as he had done the day before, willing him to demaunde and call for any thing that he should néede. *Cortez* gaue him hartie thāks, and so departed.

Then came moe *Indians* in number than there were Spaniardes, with their courses & seruice of meate ready dressed, and many boughes of daintie fruits. In this sorte they were feasted & bāketed fiftene daies most plētuously. The next day folowyng, *Cortez* sent vnto the Spaniardes certaine olde garments of the Spanishe fashion, and many other trifles, besechyng him to appoynt a day of conference at his owne pallyce: worde was sent agayne that he was ready and very well contented. Wherevpon *Cortez* tooke with him fiftie of his men all armed, and left the residue at his lodgyng in a good readinesse, and appoynted an

vnder Captayne to gouerne them. The Lorde hearing of his comming, came out of his Courte into the streate to receyue him. And hande in hand they entred together into a lowe hall, whiche they vse for the extremitie of heate in that countrey, the plotte that they buylde vpon is rayased a fadome from the grounde, so that they ascende vpon steppes, and the walles plaistered with very white lime, their tile is eyther of straw or leaues of trées, very beautifull and straungely wrought, and a good defence against the rayne. The Lorde and *Cortes* satte them downe vpon thrée footed stooles made all of one péece, the Lorde commaunded his seruitours to stand aside, and by their interpreters they began to commune of their affayres a great space, in demaundes and answeres, bicause *Cortes* desired to be well instructed of the affayres of that countrey, and lykewise of that mightie kyng of *Mutezuma*.

This *Cacike* or Lord although he were huge and laden with fleshe, yet in his demaundes and questions séemed very wise. The summe of all *Cortes* his talke was to shewe the cause of his comming thither, and who had sente him, euen as he had done in *Tauasco* to *Teudilli* and others.

This *Cacike* after he had heard *Cortes* attentiuely, he began a long communication, makyng his complaynt and opening his grieve in this sorte.

# The Indiās complaynt

## Vnder colour of holinesse

Mightie Sir, my Antecessors liued a long tyme in great peace, libertie and quietnesse, but of late yéeres my countrey and Cittie was destroyed by tyranny, bycause the Lordes of *Mexico Tenuchtitlan* with their men of *Culhua* did not only vsurpe my Citie, but also my lands by force of armes, in suche sorte that my power coulde not resiste them. And in the beginnyng those Princes beganne theyr vsurpation by way and colour of religion and holinesse, and afterwarde with force of armes, and with this title became Lordes ouer vs.

And nowe we seyng our errour, haue thought it to late to preuayle agaynst them to take away our yoke of seruitude and bondage, although we haue attempted it. And as often as we haue so done, still the victorie was theirs, and the ouerthrowe ours. Nowe all suche as doe submitte themselues vnto them, are taxed with certayne tributes, and reknowlegging them for Lordes, are defended by them, and estéemed as friendes. But if after such submission made, any chaunce to speake agaynst them, or rebell, then they are terribly corrected, yea murdered, and after Sacrifice made to the Goddes of warre, called *Tezcatlipuca* and

*Vitzilopuchtli* of their carcases, then is their fleshe eaten in banquet, and those who remaine alive, doe serve for slaves, yea and the Fathers, Mothers and Children, are compelled to labour and toyle from the Sunne rising to the Sunne setting, with confiscation of all their goods and landes. And besides all this crueltie and vituperie, they sende their officers and Serievantes to execute the premisses, who without either pittie or mercie many tymes suffereth them to starve with hunger. And being thus cruelly punished of *Mutezuma*, who nowe reigneth in *Mexico*, who would not suffer to be Vassall willingly to so good a Prince as you informed me of the Emperour, although it were but onely to be free from such vexation and robbery whiche such a mighty King could doe. And with these wordes the teares gushed out of his eyes, and pausing a while, he beganne to extoll the strength, magnificence and situation of *Mexico* planted in a great lake of water: also he exalted the riches, court, Maiestie and mightie power of *Mutezuma*. Hee sayde also howe *Tlaxcallan*, *Huexocinco* and other provinces thereabout, as also the people called *Totonaquez* of the Mountaynes were of contrary opinion to the *Mexicans*, yea enemies vnto them, who had intelligence what had happened in *Tauasco*, Yea sir (quoth hee) if it please you, I will treat such a compact with this people that *Mutezuma* with all his power shall not prevaile agaynst vs.

*Cortes* reioyced in heart to heare this newes, and sayde vnto him. It grieveth mee to heare of the euill vsage of *Mutezuma* toward his countrey and subiectes. But I assure you with Gods



helpe I will deliuer you, yea and reuenge all your iniuries, for my commyng hither is to take away all euill customes, and to helpe the oppressed, to fauour the prysoner, and comforte the afflicted, and chiefly to abolishe tyrannie. And for the good entertaynement that I haue receyued at your handes, I doe remayne yours to doe you any pleasure, and to defende you agaynst your enimies, and the lyke will I doe for your friendes, wherefore I pray you aduertise them thereof as many as are of our confederacie.

*Cortes* then tooke hys leaue, saying that he had bene many dayes there, and that he had greate néede to goe visite his shippes and menne, who muche desired his returne, and abode in *Aquihuiztlan*, where hée meante to sojourne for a certayne season, and from thence dayly they mighte conferre of their affayres. The Lorde of *Zempoallan* sayde, that if it pleased hym to abyde with him hée woulde gladly accept it, and if his businesse were suche that he might not, that then he besought him to remember him.

### **An other gifte**

Then the Lorde commaunded eyght maydens to be called, who were very well apparelled after theyr maner, theyr attyre was muche lyke the *Morisca* fashion, (the one of them was more costely apparelled than the others) and sayde vnto *Cortes*, all these maydens whiche you here see are Gentlewomen, noble

and riche, and this mayden whiche is beste attired, is a Lady of Vassals, and my brothers daughter, I doe presente hyr vnto you (meaning that *Cortes* shoulde marrie with hyr,) and the others you may bestow vpon the Gentlemen in your company, in a token of perpetuall loue and friendship.

*Cortes* receyued the presente with thankes, bycause he woulde not offende the giuer thereof. And so departed with their women ridyng behinde them, with many *Indian* women to wayte vpon them, and many *Indian* men to beare them company, and to puruey all things necessarie.

## Things that happened to Cortez in *Chiauiztlan*

The same day that they departed frō *Zempoallan* they came to *Chiauiztlan*, and yet the shippes were not arriued. *Cortes* marueyled at their long tarying in so shorte a iourney. Ther was a village within shotte of a hargabushe from the rocke called *Chiauiztlan* standyng vpon a litle hill. *Cortes* hauing little to do, went thither with his men, and the *Indians* of *Zempoallan*, who certified *Cortes* that the village was appertayning to a Lorde oppressed by *Mutezuma*. They came to the foote of the hill, without sighte of any man of the towne, excepte twoo, that *Marina* vnderstoode not, and going vp the hill, the horsemen to fauour their horses would alight, bicause the ascending was cragged and euill way, *Cortes* commaunded that they shoulde not alight, bycause the *Indians* shoulde thinke that there was no place highe nor lowe, but that these horses shoulde and coulde come vnto it. So by litle and litle they came into the towne, and finding no creature there, they feared some deceyte, yet approchyng further, they mette with twelue auncient men, whiche brought with them an interpreter who vnderstoode the language of *Culhua* and the speache of that place, whiche is the language of the *Totonaquez*, or inhabitauntes of the Mountaynes. These auncient menne declared that the cause of theyr goyng

out of the towne, was bycause that they had neuer séene anye such men as the Spaniardes were, nor yet heard that any such had passed that way, wherefore with feare they had fledde from thence. But (quoth they) when the Lord of *Zempoallan* aduertised vs, how you did hurt no bodye, but rather being a people good and peaceable, then wee were well assured who ye were, when we saw you come toward vs. And wee are now comen vnto you on the behalfe of the Lorde, to bring you to your lodging.

*Cortez* gaue them thanks, and went with them to a certaine place where the Lord was abydyng their comming wel accompanied: he shewed vnto the Christians great good wil, and maruelled to see those straungers with their long beardes.

### **A straunge salutation**

The Lord toke a little chafyngdishe in his hande, and cast into it a certaine gumme, whych sauoured in swéet smel much like vnto frankinscence. And with a sencer he smoked *Cortez* with this ceremony they vse their salutations to theyr gods and nobilitie.

### **A straunge hap**

This done they set them down, and *Cortez* enformed him of

the cause of their comming into that countrey as he had done in all other places where he had bin.

The *Casike* certified *Cortez* euen as the Lord of *Zempoallan* had done, but he stood in great feare least *Mutezuma* should be offended for receyuing and lodging him within that towne, without his commaundement, and being in thys communication, sodenly appeared twentye men entring where they sate, w<sup>t</sup> certain wāds like cudgels in their hāds, which did signify y<sup>t</sup> they were rent gatherers & in ech other hand, a fly flap of feathers, the *Cacike* & hys company were soare afrayde. *Cortez* demaunded wherefore he so altered himself, he answered, bicause those twēty *Indians* were collectors of *Mutezuma*, and that he feared that they would complayne of him, hauing founde those Christians there, he feared likewise cruell punishment for the same. *Cortes* comforted him, saying that *Mutezuma* was his friende, and that he would so vse the matter that he shoulde receyue no blame at all, but rather that *Mutezuma* shoulde giue him thankses for that whiche he had done: And if *Mutezuma* did not, or would not so accept it, that then he would defend both him and his subiects, for (quoth he) euery one of my mē is sufficient for a thousand *Mexicans*, as *Mutezuma* himselfe was well enformed by the late warres at *Potonchan*.

Yet for and notwithstanding all this talke, the Lorde and all his folke were in great feare, and meante to arise and to lodge the receyuers. *Cortes* would not suffer him, and bycause (quoth he) thou shalte see what I and my men can doe, commaund

thy seruants to apprehend and take prysoners these receyuers of *Mexico*, and I wil abide here with thee, in such sorte that *Mutezuma* with all his power shall not offende thee.

### **The receyuers put in pryson**

With the courage that he receyued at these wordes, he commaunded to lay hande vpon the *Mexicans*, and bycause they defended themselues, they were sore beaten, and layde euery one in a seuerall prison, and bounde them to a great poste whereat they were tied by the throate, féete, and handes, and beyng in this sorte imprysoned, they asked of *Cortes* whether they should kill them. *Cortes* requested that they should not be slaine, but that they might remayne as they were, with good watch that they might not escape: Then they were brought into a hall in the Spaniardes lodging, and were placed rounde aboute a good fire, but yet bounde hande and foote with garde of watchmen. *Cortes* also appoynted certaine of his men to watch the hall dore, and then went to his lodging to supper, where he and his company was well prouided at the *Caziks* furniture.

# The messages sent by Cortez vnto Mutezuma

## Pollicie

The nighte beyng farre spent, and the *Indians* that kepte the watch being asleepe, *Cortes* sente vnto the Spanyardes that watched at the hall dore where the prysoners were, and commaunded them to let goe twoo of the prysoners, as secretly as they might, and to bring them vnto him. The Spaniardes handled the matter so well, that they fulfilled his desire, and brought twoo of them to *Cortes* his chamber, who looked vppon them as though he had not knowen them, and willed *Aguillar* and *Maryna* to demaunde who they were, and what they would haue, and why they had bene in pryson. They answered, that they were vassals of *Mutezuma*, and that they had the charge to receyue certayne tributes, that those of that towne & prouince payde vnto their Lorde. And also (quoth they) we know not for what cause we are nowe imprysoned and so euelly vsed. We rather wōder to sée this new custome and madnesse, for in time past these men were wont to méete vs and receiue vs with great honour & curtesie, shewing all seruice and pleasure. Therefore we thinke that the cause of this alteration is through the fauour of you

and your cōpany, who beare the name of immortalitie. We also feare least our felowes which are in prison shal be slaine, before *Mutezuma* haue knowlege therof. Also said they, these barbarous people dwelling in the Mountaynes, would be glad to rebel if they foūd any succour or ayde, only to put their Prince to cost and charges, as heretofore they haue done. Therefore they moste humbly besought *Cortes* that hée shoulde not permitte them and their fellowes to be slaine, nor yet to abide in the handes of their enimies wherein he should do singular pleasure to *Mutesuma* their lord, & otherwise if they should perish, their Lord would be very sorowfull that his olde, faithful and trustie seruaunts shoulde haue such a reward for their good seruice.

## A vvise Captaine

*Cortez* aunswered that it grieved him much, that *Mutesuma* his friend should be misvsed wher he was, no nor yet his seruauntes euill entreated, and that hee woulde haue as muche care ouer them as of his owne, willing them to prayse the god of heauen, and to be thankful vnto him that had commaunded them to be set at liberty, in the grace and friendshippe of *Mutesuma*: he certified that in all haste they shoulde be dispatched, for *Mexico* with certaine busynesse therefore (quoth he) get you to meate, and make you strōg to take in hand that iourney, trusting to your féeete least ye should be taken againe to your greate perill and daunger, Iwis their meate was soone eaten with the great hast



they had to be gone.

*Cortez* brought them out of the towne and gaue them victuall to carry with them. And charged for the liberty and curtesie shewed vnto them, that they should signifye to *Mutesuma* their Lorde, howe that he was his assured friend, and that after he had vnderstanding of his fame, goodnes and mighty power, he much desired to serue him yea and that he helde himselfe happy, to fynde himselfe at such a time & season to loose those his seruauents, and to shew therein his good wil, likewyse he woulde do all that lay in him to preserue the honour and aucturity of so gret a Prince as hee was, & also to defende his subiectes and to loke to his affaires as his owne proper, although his highnesse dyd little estéeme hys friendshippe as appeared by *Teudilli*, who departed from him without bidding him farewell, and likewise absenting all the people of the sea coaste: yet thys notwithstanding he would not let to do him seruice at all times when occasion shoulde serue, and to procure by all meanes possible his grace, fauour, and friendship, and that he was fully perswaded, that his hyghnesse woulde not refuse his good will and friendship, considering that with his acquaintance, God had done much for him, to méete with a seruauente of the Emperoures, for thereby he might know great secretes of holy things, and also receyue greate benefytes, if then he would refuse the same, the fault shoulde be his: but yet notwithstanding he trusted in his wisdom, that considering the thing well, he woulde be glad both to see hym, and talke with him, and also to be friende and brother with the

King of *Spayne*, in whose most happie name, both he and his company were come thither. And as touching his seruauntes that remayned in prison, hée woulde so vse the matter, that they should escape all perill, promising also to set them at libertie to pleasure him, and that incontinente he woulde haue done it, but onely bycause he woulde not offende the Lorde of the Towne, who had friendly entertayned him with greate curtesie, for which cause he would not presume to controll him in his owne house, nor yet to shewe himselfe vnthankefull. The messengers departed with this message very glad and ioyfull, promising to accomlishe faithfully y<sup>e</sup> charge committed vnto them.

# **The confederacy and rebellion** *done by the industrie of Cortez*

When the *Cazike* founde missing the two prisoners, he blamed muche the garde or watch, and pretended forthwith to murder those that remayned. Then came *Cortez*, and requested that their deathe shoulde be pardoned, for so muche as they were but officers obediente to their Lorde and maister, and according to iustice they had committed no offence, nor yet deserued anye correction in the facte, whiche was seruice to their King: but for so muche as they shall not flée as the other two haue done, deliuer them vnto mee, and I will take them to my custody and charge.

## **Diuers opinions in counsell**

Vpon this request the eyghtéene prisoners were delyuered vnto *Cortez*, who sent them aboorde his Shyppes, and there commaunded them to be put in yrons. The Lorde and his counsellors fearing what mighte followe, entred into counsell what was best to doe, considering that they certaynely beléued that the two prisoners whiche were escaped, would certifie in *Mexico* the shame and cruell entertaynemente done vnto them. Some replyed that it was iust and requisite to sende vnto *Mutezuma* hys tribute, with other presentes, to mitigate

hys anger, and to excuse them, and accuse the Christians, who were the causes of the apprehension of his officers, and to craue pardon of their erreure and ouersightes whyche they hadde committed as madde men, in dishonor of the maiestie of *Mexico*. Others aunswered agayne, that it were muche better to cast off that yoke of bondage and slauery, and to giue no longer obedience to the *Mexicans*, who were both cruell and wicked tyrants, and also considering that now they had on their side those halfe Gods, and inuincible horsemen, saying likewise that they should not wante many others their neyghbours and borderers to help and succour them.

In this sorte they resolued themselues fully to rebell, and not to lose so good an occasion, wherevpon they besoughte *Hernando Cortes* to bee their defendor and Captayne, considering that for his sake they had begun that enterprise, and whether *Mutezuma* shoulde prepare hys army againste them or no, yet they on their parte were fully pretended to hold hym warre, and to desist from seruitude.

God knoweth how glad *Cortes* was to heare this matter, for he well wayed that it was the high way to hys iourneys ende: yet dissimuling the cause, he aunswered that they should well looke to the thing which they meant to take in hande, bycause (quoth he) I vnderstande that *Mutezuma* is a mightie Prince, but if ye will valiantly procéde, I will be youre Captayne, and safely defende you, for I do more esteeme your friendship, than the good will of *Mutezuma*, whyche I nothing care for: therefore lette

me knowe what number of men of warre yée are able to make. Sir (quoth they) among all our friends wée are able to make a hundred thousande menne of warre. I lyke that well quoth *Cortez*, wherefore incontinente sende youre postes, with aduise vnto all your friendes in league againste *Mutezuma*, and certifie them of this agréement and succoure of the Christians, not (quoth he) that I stande in néede of your help, for I alone with my company are able to stande againste those of *Culhua*, although they were as manye more, but reason required that they shoulde be warned of your pretence, and to be in readinesse for the same, fearing least *Mutezuma* mighte sende his army vpon a suddayne, and finde you vnprovided.

With this aduise and encouragement of *Cortez*, & also they themselues being a people heady and of small consideratiō, they dispatched incōtinent their messēgers to all the Townes and Villages of neyghbours and friendes, aduertising them what they hadde determined, exalting the strangers aboue the cloudes.

And by this meanes rebelled many *Cazikes* & townes, and all the whole Mountaynes, so y<sup>t</sup> there was not left any collector or other officer of *Mexico* in al those borders, with open proclamation of warres againste *Mutezuma*, and all his adherentes.

*Cortez* his intēt was on the other side, to stirre vp these Indians, to get both their goodes, willes, and landes, for otherwise, he could not well bring his matter to passe: he only caused the officers of *Mutezuma*, to be taken prisoners, and to be loused

agayne, he fayned a greate loue to *Mutezuma*, and stirred his subiectes agaynste him, he offered to be their defendor, and lefte them rebelled, to the intent that they should stand in néede of him.

# The foundation of the riche *Towne called Vera Crux*

At this instant the Fléete was arriued at the port, then wente *Cortez* to visit them, and carried with him many *Indians* of the Rebels, both of that Towne, and also of *Zempoallan*, who did good seruice to cutte downe timber, and to carrie stones to the place appoynted, for the building of the Citie, named the riche towne of *Vera Crux*, accordyng to the determination, when the officers were appoynted for the same, and chosen in S. *Iohn de Vlhua*, and in good order made repertition to the inhabitants of the ground, and plottes to builde vpon.

## Embassadors

They appoynted also a place for the high Churche, a Market place, a Towne house, a Gayle, store houses, a kay or Wharfe, to lade or vnlade, a butcher row, & other places necessary to the good gouernement and pollicie of a Towne. They also drew out a plot to build the Castel or Fort on, néere the roade in a place conueniente, and in this sort began theyr worke, and their houses made with mudwall, for the earth there is good for that purpose. And euery man being this occupied in this new worke, came from *Mexico* two kinsmen of *Mutezuma*, with other four

graue learned menne for Councillors, and many seruing men that attended vppon them, as Ambassadors from *Mutezuma*, they presented vnto *Cortez* certayne cloth of Cotten well wouen, and feathers curiously and fynely wroughte, other péeces of golde and siluer wrought, and a Casket of graynes of golde, as they were founde in the Mynes not molten, which wayed altogither two thousand & ninetie Castlins, & sayd, y<sup>t</sup> *Mutezuma* hadde sente hym the golde in the Casket, to cure theyr disease, and woulde gladly knowe howe they fared, giuing also vnto him most hartie thanks, for loosing his two housholde seruauntes, and preseruing the others from slaughter, besiechyng hym to make accompte, that hée woulde doe the lyke in anye affayres of his, desiring hym also to procure the libertie of the other eyghtéene Prisoners: and bycause those *Indians* hadde entertayned hym well in their houses, he did pardon their vprere, yet notwithstanding he knewe very well that they were suche a kynde of people, that in shorte space they woulde committe some other offences, whereby they myght bée chastned for all togyther, euen as a Dogge deserueth stripes. And as concernyng the rest of hys request, theyr Lorde was not well at ease, and also occupied in matters of warre of greate importance, whereby at that presente, there was no remedie to visit eache other, but in processe of tyme his desire shoulde be accomplished.

*Cortez* welcommed them friendly and ioyfully, and also lodged them in Cotages néere vnto the water side, and sent forthwith for the Lorde of *Chiautzlan*, that had rebelled, who



came at his commandement. *Cortez* sayd vnto him, lo sée what troth I haue vsed with thée, for *Mutezuma* dareth not to send any army, no nor yet displease anye person where I am. Therefore from this daye forwarde you and all youre lignage and friendes maye accompte your selues frée and exempt from the seruitude of *Mexico*, without rendryng the tributes accustomed. He requested to set at libertie the prisoners, and to restore thē to the Ambassadors of *Mutezuma*. Thys *Cazike* wylled *Cortez* to doe what pleased him, for sayde he, euen as wée haue chosen you for oure Captayne, we will not excéede one iote of youre commaundemente: wherevpon hée returned home to his towne, and the Ambassadors toward *Mexico*, all well pleased and content.

Nowe fame flew abroade, blasing that *Mutezuma* feared the Christians, wherevpon all the *Totonaques* prepared themselves for the warres, taking cleane awaye from *Mexico* their tribute and obedience.

The Ambassadors departed from *Cortez* with theyr prisoners, and manye other things that were giuen thē, of linnen, wollen, skynnes, glasse, and yron, being greatly amazed at the things which they had séene.

## Hovv Cortez tooke by force of *armes Tizapansinca*

Not long after that these things had happened, the *Indians* of *Zempoallan* sente vnto *Cortes*, to desire him of succour against the garrisō of *Culhua*, which *Mutezuma* mainteyned in *Tizapansinca*, who did greatly anoy them, in spoyling, burning, and destroying theyr corne in the fieldes, and slew their husbandmen, and toke many prisoners. The Towne of *Tizapansinca* doth confine with the *Totonaquez*, and with the ground of *Zempoallan*, and is a good strong Towne, scituated néere the Riuer, and hath a fort standing vpon a high rocke. And bycause this Towne was strong, and planted among them who were alwayes seditious and Rebelles, *Mutezuma* placed there his garrison, who séeyng the officers of receyuers and auditors come flying thyther for helpe, béeyng persecuted of the Rebels, they wente out to pacifie the Rebellion, and for to chasten them, they burned and destroyed whatsoeuer they found, and also had taken many prisoners.

*Cortez* hearing this newes, departed towarde *Zempoallan*, and from thence in two dayes iourney with a greate armye of *Indians* to *Tizapansinca*, which stooode eyghte leagues and more from that Citie.

The garrison of *Culhua* came into the field, thinkyng to

haue hadde battayle onely with those of *Zempoallan*, but when they saw the Horsemen and the bearded men, they lost their courage, and beganne to flye as fast as they myghte possible: theyr succoure béeyng néere, they were soone in holde: they woulde haue entred into theyr Castell, but for y<sup>e</sup> swiftnesse of the Horses which stopped theyr way.

## **The valiant courage of Cortez**

And when the Horses coulde not ascende vp vnto the forte, *Cortes* alighted with other foure of hys men, and among the preasse of the Townesmen got into the forte, and béeyng within, they kept the dore tyll theyr companie came wyth manye friendes, vnto whome hée delyuered the forte and Towne, desiring to do no hurte to the inhabitantes, but to suffer them to depart fréely without weapon and standerde. It was a newe worlde to those *Indians*, who did fulfyll *Cortes* hys commaundemente in all poyntes. Thys done, *Cortez* returned agayne to the Sea coast, by the same way whiche hée hadde come.

This was the firste victory that *Cortes* had among the subiectes of *Mutezuma*, whereby all the Mountaynes remayned frée from the vexations of the *Mexicans*, and all our men with great fame and reputation, as well among their friendes, as among their enimies, in so much that afterwarde when any neede did happen among the *Indians*, they would immediately sende vnto *Cortes* for one of his men, saying, that one man alone of the Chrystians,

was sufficient to be their Captayne and securitie.

Thys was a good begynnyng for the pretence of *Cortes*. Now when he came to *Vera Crux* wyth hys company triumphantly, he founde there *Francisco de Salzeda*, who was come with his caruell which he had boughte of *Alonso Cauallero*, a dweller in *Saint Iames de Cuba*, and was left there to be grounded and dressed at his departure from thence. He brought with him .70. Spanyardes, and nine Horses and Mares, wherewith they all maruellously reioyced.

## The presents that Cortez sent to *the Emperour for his fifte*

*Cortez* made greate hast in building vp the new town and the Castell, bycause the Citizens and souldiers mighte haue succoure againste winde and rayne, and commoditie of householde, and lykewise to bée assured of defence against enimies if néede shoulde happen, pretending lykewise with all expedition, to enter within the land toward *Mexico*, to visit *Mutezuma*, and to leaue in that newe worke all thing in good order, he finished many thinges, touching as well the peace as the warre.

He commaunded to be brought a lande out of his shippes all the armour & other furniture for the warres, with the Merchandise, victuall and other prouision, and to deliuer it to the rulers of the newe Cittie, accordyng to his promise. He also signified vnto all his company that it was méete and conuenient, to sende relation to the Kyng of all theyr proceedings and dealings in that countrey, with demonstration of Golde and Siluer there founde.

And (quoth he) to deale vprightly in this case, it is necessary to deuide equally our treasure to euery man his portion, accordyng to the vse of the warres, the deuision beyng made, then firste and principally lette vs deduct the Kings fifte parte. And for the better performance therof, I doe name and appoynt *Alounso de*

*Auila* Treasurer for the King, and also I doe elect *Gonsalo Mexia* Treasurer of the armie.

All the newe Magistrates ratified his sayings, and allowed his discretion and wisdom, praying the election of the newe officers as men moste méete for suche an office, and besought them to accept theyr charge.

This diligence done, he commaunded to bring foorth into the markette place all the goodes and treasure which they had gotten, as well cloth of Cotten, Feathers, Golde, and Plate, whiche mought amount vnto in valew the summe of .27000. Ducates: The same he caused to be delyuered vnto the newe elected treasurers by account, requestyng the whole counsell of the Cittie that they shoulde make deuision thereof. The counsellours and communaltie replied, saying: Sir here is nothing to deuide, for deductyng the fifte parte whiche appertayneth to the King, all the reste shall be to make payment for the furniture whiche you prepared for this voyage, and you beyng satisfied, then the shippes, munition and furniture shall serue in common for vs all, beséeching him with one assent to take all the treasure, and to sende vnto the kings maiestie his portion or fifte parte, euen as shoulde séeme most conuenient vnto him.

## **Liberalitie of Cortez**

*Cortes* replied and sayde, that time hereafter shoulde serue to pay him according to their gentle offer: But for this present

time my louyng felowes (quoth he) I will receyue no more than the share or portion that appertayneth vnto my office of generall Captayne, and all the residue shal be for the Gentlemen of my company, wherewith yée may beginne to make payment of your debtes, whiche ye ought when ye made your prouision to come with me on this voyage.

And where I haue appoynted certayne things to send to the King, of more value than his fifte parte, it mighte please them, for as muche as they were suche things as coulde not be well deuided, and likewyse the firste fruite of that Conquest, fréeely to giue him libertie to vse his discretion in that onely poynt. They al in generall graunted to his request, wherevpon he tooke out of the stocke, these things followyng.

# Inuentary

Firste the twoo whéeles of Golde and siluer, whiche *Heudilli*



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