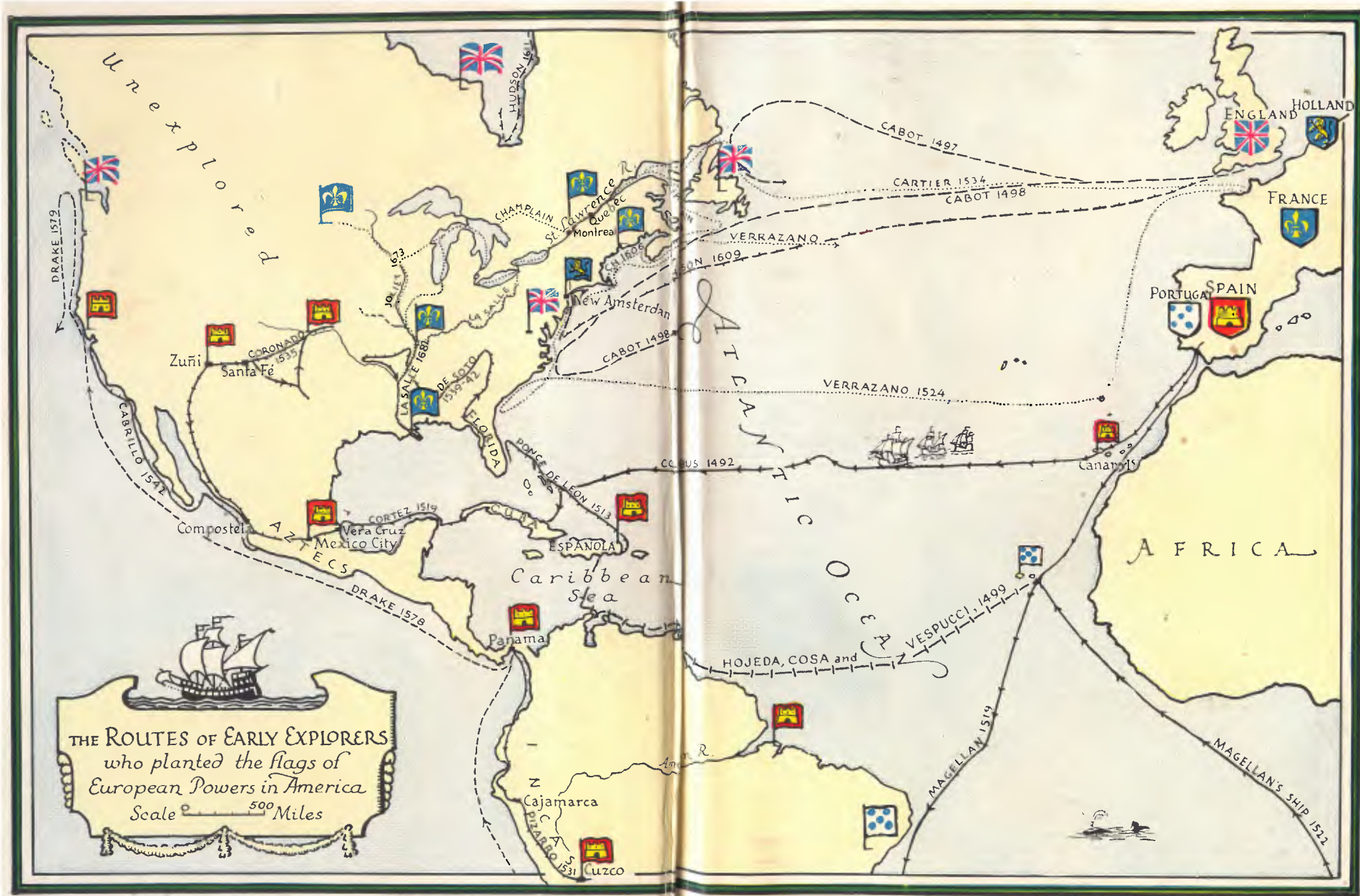




PANAMA
PANAMA


FOR YOUNG FOLKS

SUE CORE



Observe the size of the newly discovered territory into which the countries of Western Europe extended their explorations.

PANAMA
for Young Folks



Books by

SUE CORE

Panama's Trails of Progress

Ravelings from a Panama Tapestry

Christmas on the Isthmus

Soldiering on the Job

Panama's Jungle Book

Isthmiana

An Odyssey of the Spanish Main

Maid in Panama

Henry Morgan, Knight and Knave





FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF SOUTH AMERICA

The Republics that developed in South America out of the early Spanish Provinces are indicated. Note the large portion of Latin America covered by Brazil settled by the Portuguese.



PANAMA

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Young Folks

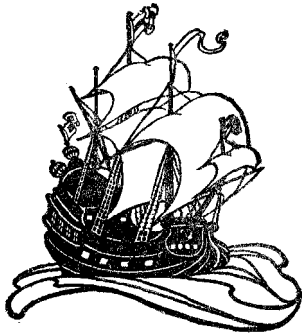
by
Sue Core

Illustrated by Elice Johnson

North River Press
New York



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MANUFACTURED IN THE U. S. A.

Dedicated to
BOBBY SUE,

a proud little American girl who will one day spin the magic miles of the completed Pan-American Highway to visit her country's greatest engineering feat. This story telling how it all came about, was written for her and other boys and girls, by her especially good friend,

SUE CORE





MODEL OF COLUMBUS' SHIP
THE "SANTA MARIA"

From the Marine Museum, Genoa, Italy

Foreword

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS:

We Americans today have many, many things for which to be both proud and thankful. Not the least of these is the knowledge that our country, since its very beginning, has been a builder; a nation which has worked, always, to make not just our own homeland but the whole world a better and happier place for men and women and boys and girls to live.

We first built ourselves a great and wonderful nation from a primitive wilderness and then filled it with beautiful cities, prosperous farmlands, fine highways and tremendous factories. Our engineers have amazed the world by the number and size of the bridges they have built, the many shining miles of railroads they have laid and the mammoth dams they have thrown across rivers in order to send water to thirsty desert lands. While other great nations have worked ceaselessly to discover more terrible ways of waging war against their neighbors, America has used her strength and inventive genius to find new ways of making life everywhere a pleasanter, richer, happier experience. Let us never cease to be very, very proud that she has done so.

Since America's role among the sisterhood of nations has been, always, a constructive one, it is not surprising that the Panama Canal, longed for and dreamed of by mankind for four centuries, should have been made into a wonderful actuality by the energy and determination of American engineers. It was exactly the sort of accomplishment that was expected of America by the rest of the world.

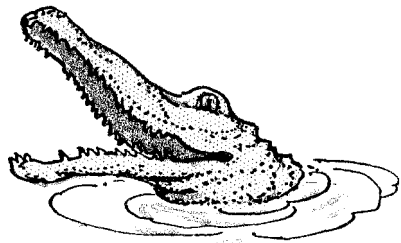
Building the Panama Canal was an unbelievably gigantic undertaking; the greatest ever accomplished by human hands, and no matter what tremendous feats of constructive genius may be brought into being by the peaceful world of tomorrow, it will forever remain our proudest monument. Always, we shall thrill at remembering that after centuries of world-wide yearning it was the fine men of America, our homeland, who finally stepped forward and made the dream into a reality; who divided a great continent in order to unite the world.

The historical background of the highly interesting country where the Panama Canal is located, and the happenings which led up to the tremendous climax of its completion, are briefly sketched for you in the story which follows.

THE AUTHOR

Contents

Foreword	ix
I. Spain's Claims to the New World	3
II. The Kind of People Who Came from the Old World to the New	13
III. The Kind of Countries to Which They Came	25
IV. Conquest and Colonization of Mexico and Central America	49
V. The Conquest of Peru	74
VI. High Tide of Spain's New World Power	90
VII. Spain's Downfall in the New World	107
VIII. Building the Panama Canal	119





List of Illustrations

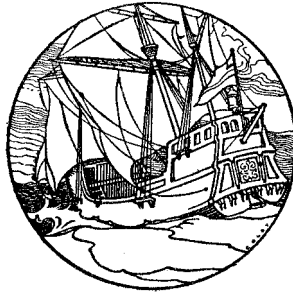
Spanish Settlements in America	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Columbus Taking Possession of San Salvador	2
Sea Birds	5
Map—Mediterranean Passage to the Indies	9
Balboa	13
Half the World to Spain—Half to Portugal	15
Soldier of the King	19
Map—Voyages of Columbus and Magellan	22
Toucans	24
Native American	27
Map—North and South America, Showing Cordillera Range	29
Central American Gold	31
Ruins of Mayan Temple	32
Coffee	34
Mayan God	35
Native of Tehuantepec, Mexico	37
Llamas—Peru	39

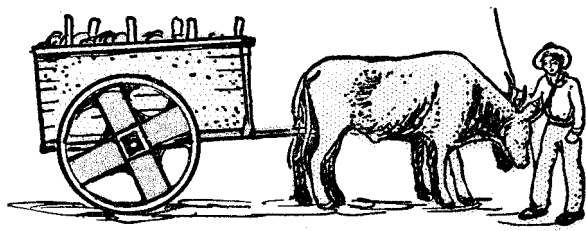
Grass Boats—Lake Titicaca	46
San Blas Indians of Panama	48
Columbus	50
Map—Scene of Columbus's Landing	52
Watch Tower of Porto Bello	57
Along the Gold Road	61
“The King's Bridge”	63
Montezuma	65
“La Noche Triste”	68
The Waters of the Volcano Lake Swept Down the Mountainside	73
Mayan Altar	75
Ruins of Machu Picchu	78
Inca High Priest	81
Peruvian Market Women	89
Andean Women of Peru	91
Queen Elizabeth	94
Pirate Morgan	98
Morgan's Men	100
Ruined Tower—Old Panama	103
Cocoa Pods	106

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xv

Peruvian Native Art	109
Simon Bolívar	113
José de San Martín	114
Cocoanuts	118
Old French Locomotive	120
Map—The Canal Route	125
Malarial Mosquito	127
Mosquito Control—Man Spraying Oil on Swamp	129
Electric Mule	130
Ship in Panama Canal Lock	131
Ship Passing Through a Lock	133





PANAMA
for Young Folks



COLUMBUS TAKING POSSESSION AT SAN SALVADOR

CHAPTER I

Spain's Claims to the New World

UNTIL a little more than four hundred years ago America and Europe knew nothing of one another. Neither even knew there *was* such a country as the other. In Europe there were many different groups of white people and each group had its own customs, language and government. The territory where each of these groups lived was called a country.

In America, by which we mean North, Central and South America, there lived many different groups of brownish-red people. Each of these groups also had its own customs, language and government, but was called a tribe. Neither the white groups in Europe nor the brown groups in America even knew there were such people as the others.

For many, many hundreds of years the white people kept on living in Europe while the brownish-red people continued to live happily in America. However, as soon as the white groups discovered the country belonging to the brown people, which happened in 1492, they decided to take it away from them and keep it for them-

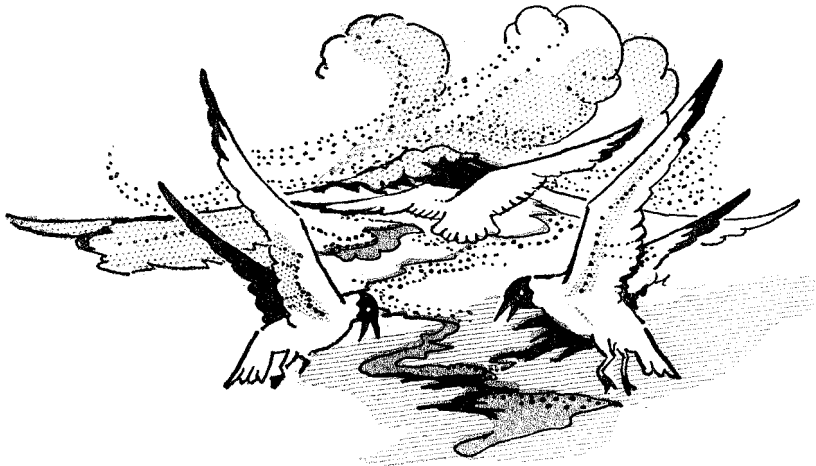
selves. The way they went about getting this land away from the real owners was so harsh and cruel that now, only four hundred years later, the brown people have almost disappeared from many parts of America. The white people from across the ocean have killed or crowded them out.

This crowding-out of the native Americans was done chiefly by settlers from two different countries—Spain and England. Today the Spanish language is spoken almost entirely in Central and South America with the exception of Brazil, which was once a Portuguese possession. Its people still speak that language. In North America English is spoken everywhere with the exception of Mexico which speaks Spanish; and a little corner of Canada where French is still the commonest language.

Have you ever wondered why this is true? Or why North America doesn't speak Spanish also? Or why all the Americas do not speak English? What would you say if you were told that it was a flock of birds that partly decided which half of the Americas should be Spanish-speaking? And that *that* decision caused *you* to belong to an English-speaking country instead of a Spanish one? Let us see if we can figure out just why this is true.

One day while Columbus's frightened men were quarreling and begging him to turn toward Spain, a flock of birds passed overhead. The sailors noticed that they

were land birds and that they were flying southward as though they knew exactly where they were going. It was late fall, you know, when Columbus made his voyage and the birds were flying southward to get away from the cold of winter weather in North America.



SEA BIRDS

“Since they are land birds they must be flying toward land,” reasoned Columbus. “I am sure that if we follow them we also shall find land!”

He therefore changed his course to a southerly direction and as a result, touched land much farther south than he would have, had he kept on as he was headed before he saw the birds.

Had he not changed his direction, Columbus with his

Spanish ships and Spanish sailors would have landed somewhere near South Carolina or Virginia. Then North America, being the field of their conquest and domination, might now be a Spanish-speaking country. Had Spain settled North America, England would probably have turned to South America which would now very likely be an English-speaking continent. Perhaps the United States might even be in South America; or even more surprising, maybe there wouldn't be a United States at all!

However, since that flock of birds was headed south when first sighted, this expedition and the others which followed it, kept inching constantly southward with the result that it was Central and South America that the Spaniards finally claimed and settled. Think how different things might have been had it been spring and those birds flying northward!

While we are "supposing," let us suppose Columbus had not sailed westward at all—who and where would we all be today? And do you know that if it had not been for some pepper he might never have started out across the Atlantic in the first place? Yes, pepper! Just think—this pepper that burns your tongue and makes you sneeze if it gets near your nose, was indirectly the cause of America's discovery!

Now we shall see just how good you are at thinking

out riddles. We are going to talk about some other things first, but you just keep on thinking *hard* about that pepper and then a little later you will be given a question. It will be fun to see who can answer it first.

You see, when Columbus was a little boy, people did not know very much about taking care of food so it would not spoil. They ate very few vegetables because they had not yet learned that they were good for food. Perhaps you think Columbus was a lucky boy because his mother did not make him eat spinach, but just think of all the other good things he missed! He did not eat tomatoes because people at that time thought they were poison, and he had never tasted mashed potatoes, roasting ears of corn, nor pumpkin pie! Do you know why he had not?

All the people of Europe at that time, both rich and poor, lived mostly upon black bread and meats; and meats, you know, will spoil very quickly if they are not sealed in air-tight containers or dried or put on ice.

The people did not have tin cans or glass jars or ice-boxes but they did know that meat would not spoil if it were dried. They therefore cut it into thin strips and hung it over long poles to dry in the sun until it became as hard and as dry as wood. Today we call such meat "jerked meat," and our western cowboys, mining prospectors, and other people who stay long distances from

cities, even now generally carry a bag of "jerky" among their provisions. When it is needed it is boiled until soft enough to eat.

Naturally this kind of meat did not taste very delicious when it was cooked, but it was the best the people had. They found out, though, that if plenty of seasonings were used in cooking it, the unpleasant taste was somewhat improved and it was easier to eat.

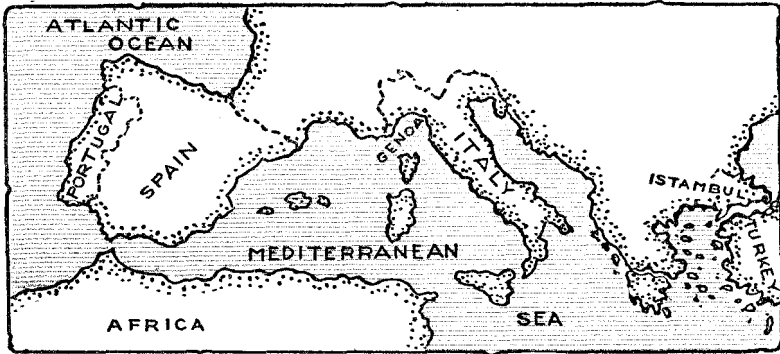
Now do you know why the people of early Europe wanted pepper so badly?

Of course it was not only pepper they wanted, but other spices as well; the very kind your mother keeps on her pantry shelves—cloves, cinnamon, allspice, nutmegs, etc. And do you know where they grow? Not in England, France, Spain, Portugal, nor Italy. Do you know why they do not?

The people at that time knew of but one far-distant country where they could get spices, and that was India. The journey to India, however, was long and dangerous. Merchants who engaged in the spice trade had to send their ships through the Mediterranean and on into the Black Sea by passing through that little gateway at Istanbul, which for many centuries was called Constantinople. Camel caravans would travel across the desert from India and meet these vessels on the shores of the Black Sea. Loaded with their precious cargoes of

spices, silks, perfumes and jewelry, the ships would then sail back home.

This was a long, dangerous journey, but the people



MEDITERRANEAN PASSAGE TO THE INDIES

of Europe wanted this merchandise from the Orient so badly that they were willing to pay big prices for it. Many merchants, therefore, engaged in this trade and it had been going on for many years when it came to an abrupt and unpleasant end. Constantinople, which controlled the gateway between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, was captured by the Turks!

In order for you to understand just what this capture meant to the people of Europe, let us draw a different picture of it. We know that ships which pass through the Panama Canal, bring all the apples and pears and grapes and celery and canned things and dress goods and

baseball bats which are sold in the stores in Panama and in the commissaries of the Canal Zone. Now suppose a band of gangsters should capture the Canal and begin seizing all the ships passing through the locks, in order to steal their cargoes and put their crews to death.

If that should happen, it would not be long before ship captains would stop going through the Canal and the people of Panama and the Zone would have nothing to buy. They would then have to think of some other way to bring merchandise into the country besides on ships, wouldn't they?

The Turks were the gangsters of Europe at that time and once they had captured the little gateway at Constantinople, they began to rob all the ships that passed through it. They also killed so many of the sailors on these vessels that merchants refused to go through there any more. This left the people of Europe without the precious stones, perfumes, silks, and spices of the East. They, however, wanted such things so badly that men everywhere kept trying to think up some other means of reaching India to get them. One man, Vasco da Gama, finally reached India by sailing around Africa, but the journey was such a long one that people still were not satisfied. They wanted to find a shorter route.

As time went on, a few men started to talk about the possibility of sailing westward to reach the Orient, al-

though people in general made fun of such an idea. Finally one man had the courage to prove that the Atlantic could be crossed, and after he did that, many others were willing to follow. They had been thinking so much about the same thing that it was not hard for them to believe the stories he told when he returned.

Columbus did not reach India by sailing westward, but he would have, if America had not blocked his path. He did prove, though, that the Atlantic Ocean could be crossed. He also showed the other sailors of the world that the sea was not full of monsters that would devour them, and that there was no sharp edge to the ocean over which ships would tumble if they got beyond sight of land! Such fears troubled even many educated people at that time, you know.

When anyone in our own country a few years ago spoke of flying across the ocean, almost everybody else said it could not be done. A few people kept right on thinking and talking about it, though, until finally the feat was accomplished. Men really flew through the air from America to Europe. A little later Lindbergh made the trans-ocean air journey all alone; the first man in the world to attempt and succeed in such a dangerous undertaking. However, if Lindbergh had not gone just when he did, some other man would have been first to cross the ocean alone in an aeroplane. The world was

just waiting for somebody to prove that such a thing was possible.

It was the same in Columbus's day. The world was ready for some brave man to prove that the Atlantic could be crossed, and if Columbus had failed in his venture, it would not have been long before somebody else would have attempted and accomplished the feat. The trade of the world demanded that sailors find new roadways through the ocean and the educated minds of the day had been discussing the question of the earth's shape for many years. It was simply left for Columbus, like Lindbergh, to lead the way and offer proof which would cause others to follow.

When a procession is once formed, whether it be a circus parade, a Boy Scout procession or a line of discovery and invention, someone who happens to be out in front will be made the leader. Should an accident befall him, somebody just back of him will step up to take his place and the procession will continue to move forward.

Even though Lindbergh and America, or Columbus and Spain, had failed to lead the way, these two great processions of discovery and adventure would have been started anyway, because the world was just ready each time for the start to be made. Had these two brave men not gone, other brave men perhaps from other countries would merely have been the leaders in their stead.

CHAPTER II

The Kind of People Who Came from the Old World to the New

PERHAPS out on the playground you have heard some boy say, "Finders are keepers!" What did he mean?

Or perhaps you have heard some other boy reply, "Holders are keepers!" Do you know what that meant?

In the early days, countries were very much like boys. Most of them thought finders were keepers and all of them declared that holders were keepers.

Spain thought that finders were keepers. Everything her explorers found, they claimed in the name of Spain. When Columbus discovered land on his first trip to the new world, he arranged a very impressive ceremony in which he proclaimed, "I take possession of this entire new territory and all the treasure it may contain, in the name of the King of Spain!"



BALBOA

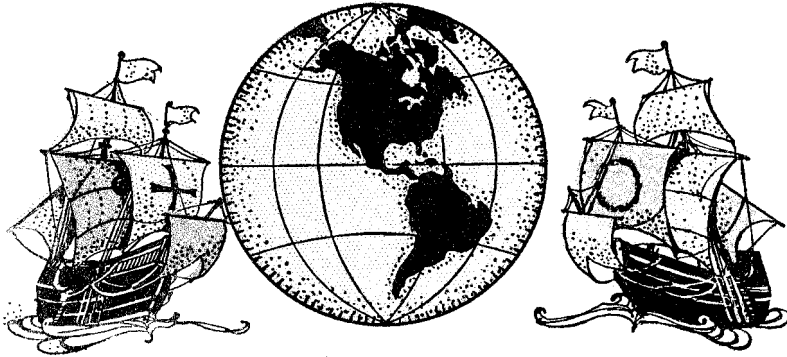
When Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean he planted the flag of Spain in the waves and said, "I claim all of this big new ocean and all the lands it touches and all the islands in it for the King of Spain!"

All the other discoverers and explorers who sailed for Spain did likewise. According to their claims and beliefs, all of South and Central America, as well as Mexico, the United States, Canada, Alaska, the Pacific Ocean and all the islands in it, as well as all the lands it touches, belonged to Spain! They really would have all belonged to Spain "for keeps," too, if it had not been that some other countries of Europe believed that "holders are keepers," and proceeded to *hold* some of the land in the new territory to make good their claims to it.

England, France and Holland were small, unimportant countries at the time of America's discovery, while Spain and Portugal were the two most powerful nations in the world. Being rivals in importance, they started to dispute with one another over the possession of the new territory after Columbus discovered it. It was said that they at last appealed to the Pope to settle the dispute and he, taking a map of the world, drew a line through the middle of it.

"Spain, you may have everything on this side of the line," said he. "Portugal, the territory on the other side of the line may belong to you!"

And because the Pope was the most powerful man in the world at that time, both countries believed he really could divide the earth and give it away just that easily!



HALF THE WORLD TO SPAIN—HALF TO PORTUGAL

England, France and Holland were, as we said, small and unimportant countries but they said, “Oho! Some one must show us the place in Father Adam’s will that gives half of the world to Spain and half to Portugal! We shall see about that. Not finders, but *holders*, are keepers, and if we can hold any of that new-found land for ourselves, we shall do so!”

It will be interesting to see just what each country did in order to have some of this new land for herself. Before we do this, however, let us try to decide just what kind of people these different countries sent out to the new world. If we know what they were like at home,

we shall understand better the things they did when they got over here.

First, have you ever noticed how differently you feel in cool weather? On hot, sultry afternoons you feel like sitting still and keeping in the shade. On cool mornings, though, you walk more briskly. And have you ever noticed how much easier it is to work arithmetic problems on cool mornings than in the hot drowsy afternoons?

If you will stop to think how differently *you* feel in hot and cool weather, you will understand better the effect which different climates have upon people who have lived in them for hundreds of years. Races of people who live all the time in cool or temperate climates are generally more industrious and more energetic than those living in the tropics. They have become accustomed to moving fast and working hard to keep warm.

Did you know that most of the world's great inventions have been made by people living where climates are cool? We say we feel "listless" when it is hot. The people in hot countries have developed into races which are generally too listless to invent radios, automobiles, and electric iceboxes.

In looking over the different settlers who came to the new world, let us take the early people of Spain and Portugal first. Can you tell by looking at the map of

the Iberian Peninsula what kind of climate it would have? And what do you find at the north of Spain? The fact that it is almost surrounded by water would have what effect upon the occupations of the people who live there?

The high wall of the Pyrenees kept out most of the fierce tribes from the north that overran early Britain, France and Germany. They were all strong, energetic, hardy people; these Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Vikings, Franks, Gauls and Teutons, but very few of them attempted to climb the high mountain wall hemming France in on the south. They did not know what was on the other side of the wall and did not bother to find out because they were satisfied with the lands which they had already captured.

Although Spain was spared the attacks of northern tribes, the strait of Gibraltar is so narrow that she was constantly invaded by fierce bands of people from northern Africa who found her warm, semitropical climate very much to their liking. We may think of Spain as a house with two doors. The back one had a good strong lock on it—which was the Pyrenees Mountains. Robbers could not easily get in through that door. Her front door, however, was so weak that hostile visitors from across the strait of Gibraltar were always breaking in and causing trouble.

Because Africa is the home of the Ethiopian race we sometimes think of all Africans as being black, but they are not. Most of the peoples of northern Africa belong to the white race although they have dark complexions, very black eyes and straight black hair. They have always liked fighting and adventure better than hard work. They are greedy for money but would rather take it away from someone else than work and earn it for themselves.

It was these people—the Arabs, Moors, and other tribes of northern Africa, that for hundreds of years swept the Iberian Peninsula in conquest after conquest. Because of the constant invasions from these north-African tribes, the men of Spain had had to learn to be good soldiers. At the time Columbus first went to Spain, she had the finest fighters in the world. They were at that time engaged in fighting the Moors, trying to drive them out of Spain and back to Africa. The Spaniards had just succeeded in this war against the Moors when America was discovered. This fact helped to explain the kind of people who first came from Spain to the new world.

We must remember that in those early times a country could survive only if its men were good soldiers. Any nation which was quiet and peace-loving would soon be captured by some of its war-like neighbors. Because of

this condition, the most powerful countries at that time, naturally, were those which had the fiercest fighters in their armies.

When America was discovered, it was the leaders of these armies in different European countries who rushed to the new world with bands of their war-like followers. Peaceful settlers came later; farmers, merchants and other workers. But for many years most of the men who came to America were soldiers and adventurers who had no intention of settling down to hard work like clearing land and building homes in a wild new country. They preferred to hunt for treasure and make the Indians work for them.

War is always cruel and in those early times it was even more cruel than it is now. There were not so many nor such dreadful ways of killing people, then, but it was the custom in all countries to treat a conquered foe very badly. Since the first people who



A SOLDIER OF THE KING

came to the new world were all soldiers, it is easy to understand that they would not be very kind to the Indians whom they subdued and conquered. Because the soldiers treated the Indians badly, however, was no reason for believing the settlers who came later did the same thing.

Spain was the most powerful nation in the world at the time America was discovered, as we said before. The reason she was so strong was because she had more fighters and fiercer fighters than any other country. It was natural, then, that more soldiers would come from Spain than from any other country; and most of these soldiers landed in Mexico and the territory south of it.

These bold men from Spain were glad of America's discovery, because it offered them a fine chance for exciting adventure as well as an opportunity to get a great deal of money without working for it. We may say that these early adventurers came over to America for three chief reasons.

First, they were very eager for thrilling and dangerous adventure. The ending of the Moorish War had left thousands of Spanish knights, who knew very little about anything except fighting, with nothing to do. The discovery of America offered them a new and very fine opportunity for conquest by the exercise of arms.

Second, they said they wanted to spread the Christian

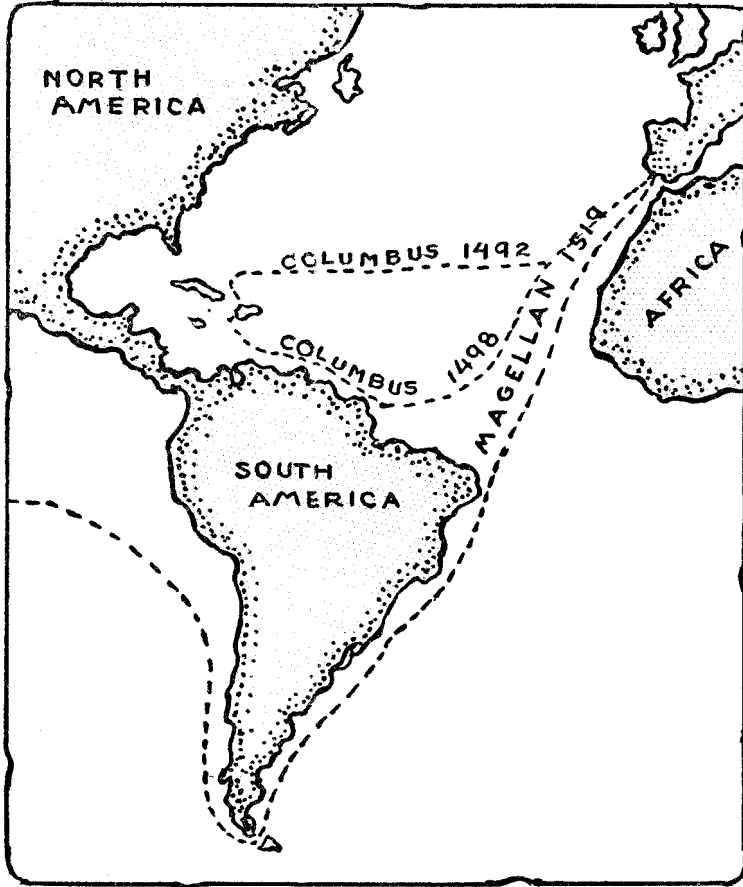
religion and this they tried very hard to do. Priests accompanied all their expeditions and every effort was made to convert the natives.

The third reason the Spaniards wanted to come over to the new world was their eagerness for riches. Having no means of becoming wealthy at home, they came to the new land hoping to find gold. Since they were soldiers, getting rich by hard work and careful saving held no appeal for them, though. Quick riches taken away from others by the sword— Ah, that was much better! They were so anxious for gold that they did some dreadful things in order to get it.

If you will remember that one of these three reasons—the finding of exciting adventure, the teaching of Christianity to the Indians, or the hope of getting gold by fighting for it—was back of every expedition sent out from Spain during the years of discovery and exploration, it will be easier for you to understand the way these bold and greedy adventurers behaved in the new land after they got over here.

The Portuguese people were much like the Spaniards. They were great seamen and preferred the dangers of discovery and exploration to hard labor at unexciting tasks like farming and keeping stores. They also welcomed the finding of a new world because it gave them, too, more room for adventure. The first expedition to

encircle the globe, you remember, was headed by a Portuguese sailor named Magellan. Magellan did not carry the Portuguese flag on this journey, however. The King of Spain had hired him to make the voyage.



VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS AND MAGELLAN

Magellan did not make the entire trip himself, because he was killed in the Philippine Islands before he reached home. However, because he was the leader or "admiral" of the little fleet that started the voyage, we always say Magellan was the first man to sail completely around the world. It was eighteen of Magellan's men, though, who really went all the way round; but because they were not leaders, we do not even know their names.

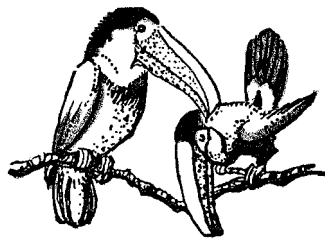
The early English people were somewhat different from the Spaniards and Portuguese. To begin with, they were a much poorer people than the Spaniards. They did not have so many servants, so had learned to work for themselves. This was easier for them to do because they lived in a much cooler country. The various tribes who settled in Britain after the Roman Conquest—the Jutes, Angles, Saxons and other Northmen, came largely from the colder countries of northern Europe. All were strong, sturdy people from lands where one must keep moving in order to be warm. They, too, wanted wealth and their first settlements in the new world failed because the men in them spent all their time looking for supposed treasure instead of planting crops and building warm houses.

The French, for the most part, were farming people who wanted homes more than anything else. Religious differences in France had caused so much trouble and

strife at home that the French had set out for the new world looking, not so much for gold, as for new homes—places where they could live and worship God as they pleased. The French treated the Indians better than any other white settlers who came to America. We must remember, however, that they were not soldiers.

The Dutch who settled in what is now New York in 1623, were solid, industrious people who wanted homes, mostly. They were too poor to buy land in their own country, but in America land was free! Building homes in the new world was not easy, but they were willing to work long and patiently to get them.

If you will keep in mind the kinds of people who came to the new world from these five countries in the old, and then match them up with the kind of countries where each finally settled, you will see that they fit together almost as neatly as the pieces of a picture puzzle.



TOUCANS

CHAPTER III

The Kind of Countries to Which They Came

Now that we have learned something about the people who came from Europe to settle in the new world, suppose we next try to find out what kind of places they came to and what sort of people they met when they got here. In order to do this, let us begin by looking at the islands of the West Indies, because it was there that Columbus first landed. We shall then imagine a quick aeroplane trip from North America down through Mexico and Central America into South America. That is, we shall take just a quick glance at the kind of countries they are, the sort of people who live there, and the things they do.

The islands of the West Indies, where Columbus first touched land were warm and pleasant. Having but two seasons, wet and dry, there was much tropical vegetation. Since the climate seemed not greatly different from their own sunny country in southern Europe, the Span-

iards felt very much at home there and found it easy to establish colonies.

The natives living on these islands were what we call "primitive"; that is, they were not highly civilized and had no good roads, no schools, and no cities. The climate partly accounted for this backwardness. Many fruits and vegetables grew wild and there was plenty of game in the forests. They did not have to exert themselves for shelter and clothing, while their food was provided by nature. Did you ever stop to think that the harder people have to work for a living, the faster they become civilized?

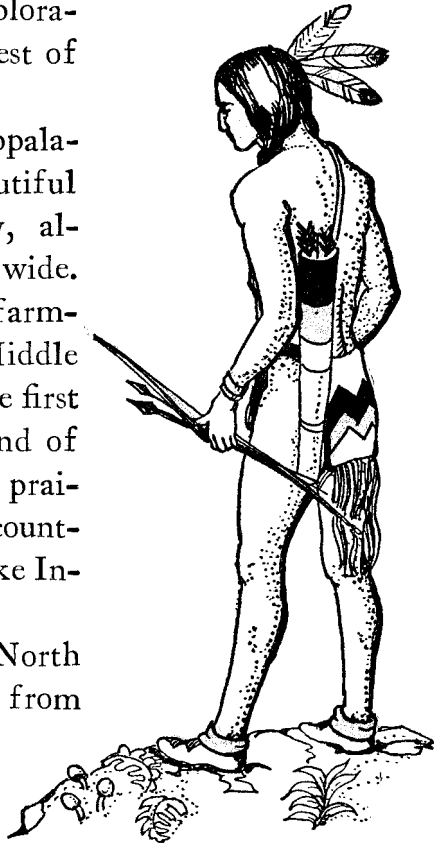
On a few of the islands the inhabitants were war-like, but most of them were simple, peaceable people who were not at all able to protect themselves against the white invaders who conquered and enslaved them. The white men who came to their country knew how to fight so much better than they that they had no chance of being victorious.

The northern half of the new world was very different from Spain in both climate and land formation. The eastern seacoast there is a low, level country which we now call the Atlantic Coastal Plain. It is a very fertile farm-land country, but such a place was not wanted by the early Spanish soldiers because they did not wish to become farmers.

Beyond the Atlantic Coastal Plain lie many miles of rugged mountains which we now call the Appalachians. Through these there were only a few easy passes cut by rivers. For a long time after the coastal region was settled by white people, the Appalachian Mountains proved a difficult barrier in the exploration of the land to the west of them.

Lying beyond the Appalachians there was the beautiful Mississippi River Valley, almost two thousand miles wide. It now forms the great farming section of the "Middle West." When white people first saw it, it was a fertile land of rivers, forests, and grassy prairies over which roamed countless tribes of hardy, war-like Indians.

These Indians of North America differed greatly from their more timid brethren farther south. They were finally conquered and driven from their



NATIVE AMERICAN

homes by white settlers, but the task was not so easy as that of subduing the natives farther to the south.

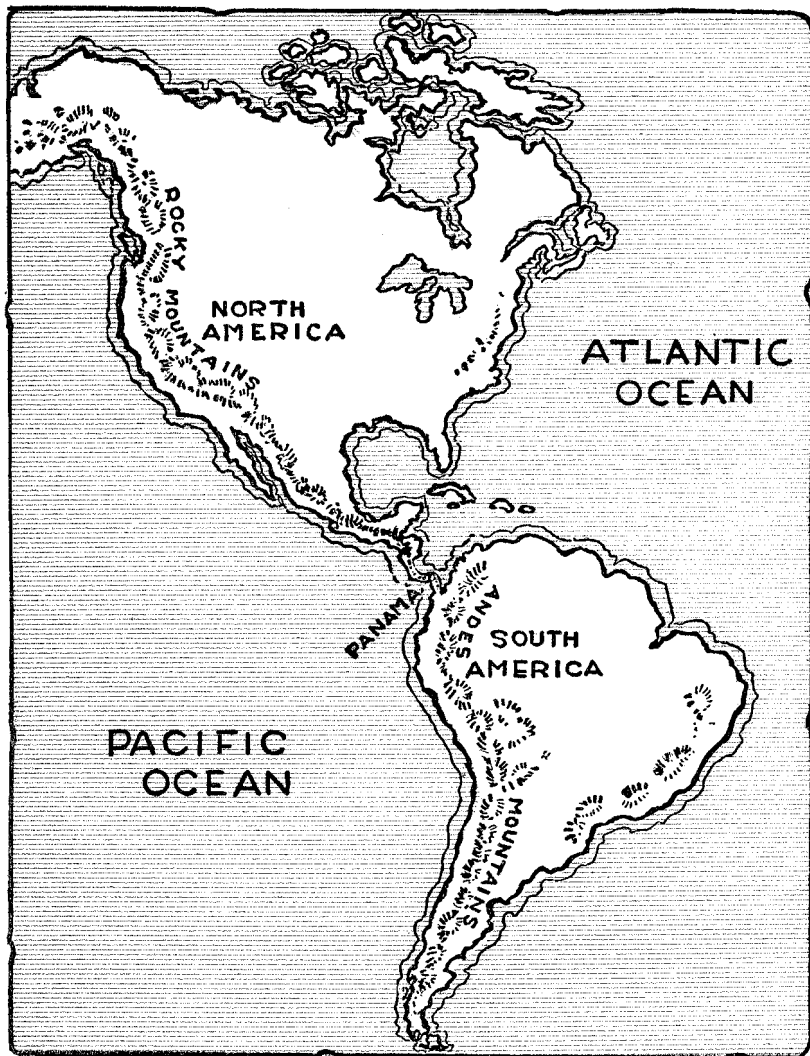
Beyond the Mississippi Valley lay the gigantic ranges of the Cordilleras and farther beyond them, still, a narrow and more nearly level stretch of land lying along the Pacific coast.

The entire region was a beautiful, fertile land which would make millions of homes for people wishing them, but it offered very little of promise to anyone searching for gold and quick riches. The climate of the region, too, did not greatly appeal to the Spanish explorers. The summers were warm but the winters for the most part were so cold that emigrants from Spain's warm, sunny climate did not feel at all comfortable there.

The Spaniards made numerous ventures into the territory which is now the United States of America but they found little to encourage them to make further explorations. Ponce de Leon went searching for a Fountain of Youth which would keep him a young man forever, but he and his party were all killed by hostile Indians.

De Soto with a proud and enthusiastic band of followers started westward in search of golden cities but they, too, made the natives angry by their bad behavior and suffered great hardship and ill fortune.

De Soto discovered the Mississippi River but lost his own life and that of most of his followers. Only a few



NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
Showing Cordillera Range (Rocky and Andes Mountains)

of his men succeeded in reaching the Gulf of Mexico two years later and they were nearly dead from fever, starvation and constant fighting with the Indians.

Cervera, another Spaniard, managed to reach the far Southwest where Arizona and New Mexico now are, and where he had been told he would find the Golden Cities of Cibolo. Thinking he really would find splendid cities filled with yellow gold, he was greatly disappointed when the "cities" turned out to be only Indian villages made of sun-dried brick or adobe, with no gold in them at all.

The letters Cervera wrote home about this territory discouraged its exploration by the Spaniards for many years. The "Southwest" was colonized by the Spaniards but not very extensively until after the conquest of Mexico, when the Spanish civilization in that country gradually spread northward.

When you stop to think what kind of people these early Spaniards were, what three motives were back of their journeyings into the new world, and when you picture the land of North America as it was at that time, can you see why they cared so little for it and turned southward instead?

The English, French, and Dutch, on the contrary, found North America more to their liking. The country in general, climate and all, was much like their own.

They, too, were at first hopeful of securing rich treasure in the new world but after they found there was none, became interested in building new homes rather than in seeking longer for fabulous golden cities. Settlers from these three countries, therefore, finally explored and settled the entire continent of North America with the exception of Mexico.

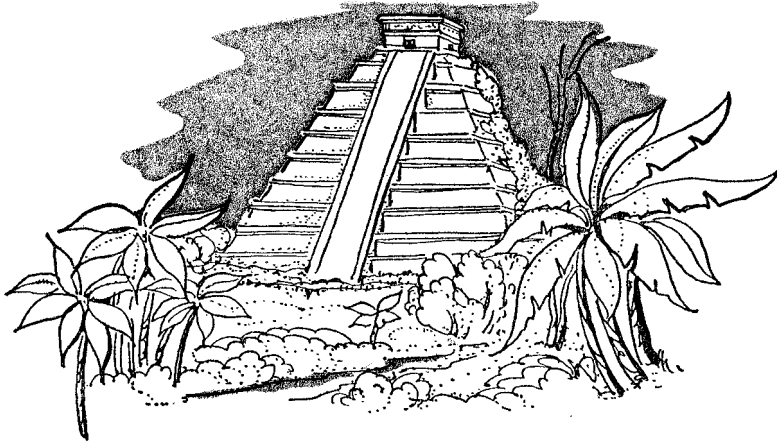
Do you like to *imagine* things? If you do, suppose you *imagine* that the land which is now the new world, was once a giant wasp at which an evil magician had become angry; changing it into a continent which now lies sleeping in a bed of water reaching almost from pole to pole. Other wasps do not have backbones but our big wasp continent does. Its backbone is that huge ridge of mountains, known as the Cordilleras, that runs from the head to the tail of our wasp continent.

Although the same Cordilleras run through all the Americas, the people in the different countries call them by different names. In North America they are the "Rocky Mountains." In South America they are the "Andes."



CENTRAL AMERICAN
"GOLD"

In the *pinched-in* part of the wasp they are known by their real name, "Cordilleras." In Mexico the people call them the "Sierra Madres," which means "Mother Mountains."



RUINS OF MAYAN TEMPLE

Mexico lies mostly in the tropics and its climate seemed much more pleasant to the Spaniards than did the rest of North America. With cocoanuts, bananas, plantains and rice growing thickly in the lowlands along the coast, and with fruits and grains flourishing luxuriantly on the cooler uplands, Mexico reminded them a great deal of their own native Spain.

When the Spaniards first came to Mexico they found living there a highly developed race of people known as the Aztecs. They had good roads, beautiful cities and

a well-planned government. Much of Mexico is arid or dry and the Aztecs had even worked out a very fine system of irrigation by means of which they raised good crops on the desert land.

Since Mexico is very mountainous, there is much ore of different kinds there, especially gold and silver. The Aztecs had become skillful at making this gold and silver into ornaments and their temples were filled with decorations made from it. Personal jewelry and other ornaments made from gold were also to be seen everywhere. The Sierra Madres were so rich in ore that even today Mexico is known as one of the world's chief gold and silver producing regions.

Mexico City at the time of the Spanish invasion was said by its conquerors to be more beautiful than any city in the old world. Other smaller but prosperous, thriving cities dotted the country from coast to coast. Great flocks of sheep and goats, fields of maize and alfalfa, orchards and gardens, everywhere proved to the eager eyes of the Spaniards who first looked upon them, that here was a country far richer than any to be found farther north.

All in all, Mexico offered everything for which the Spaniards were seeking; conquest, riches, and a wide field in which to spread the Christian religion. It was no wonder they determined to become its masters as soon as they had once set eyes on it.

The tribes inhabiting the Central American territories to the south, were much more backward than the Aztecs. For the most part they had developed no special industries, nor did their countries boast of any beautiful cities. In what is now Guatemala and Honduras, and running on up into the Yucatan Peninsula, the invaders found the ruins of an ancient civilization, however; grander and more advanced even than that found in Mexico.

At the time the white men came, most of these beautiful cities had been abandoned, although their ruins proved that at one time there had existed in Central America a highly developed civilization known as the Mayan. The descendants of the Mayas, whom the Spaniards found living in Yucatan, were skilled warriors and very brave fighters. They were by no means as easily conquered as the weaker and more timid natives who lived in the rest of Central America.

There had once existed in Panama a high type of civilization known as the Cocoli. However at the time of America's discovery the Indians there lived in rude, palm-thatched huts, hunted wild game with bow and arrow, wore no clothing and had no schools, no farming implements, no roads and no cities. They had learned to make a rude kind of pottery and could



COFFEE

do a little weaving but they had no other industries. Their farming was crude and consisted chiefly of little patches of maize, yams and tobacco, planted in the jungle where the trees had been deadened to let in the sunlight.

Those of you who have ever made a trip to the Darien region of Panama have seen these Indians living now just as they did when the white men first came, for they have changed little. You can readily understand how easy it was for the Spaniards to subdue and enslave them. Had they been like the North American Indians who were brave, fierce fighters, the conquest of the southern regions would not have been so easy for the invaders.

The fact that Panama lies entirely within the tropics accounts partly for the backwardness of its native Indians. Because of a warm climate the year round and the heavy rainfall, plentiful vegetation abounds everywhere and it requires very little work in order to live. Cocomanuts, bananas, yams, plantain, breadfruit and many other tropical fruits grow without cultivation. The waters have fresh fish and the forests are filled with game. Because there is no cold weather, the problem of clothing and shelter is a very simple one. It is no wonder that the natives living



MAYAN GOD

there when the Spaniards entered the country, had done almost nothing for themselves. Nature had been so kind to these children of hers that there was little left for them to do.

Central America is the *pinched-in* part between the two American continents. It makes up that thousand-mile stretch of territory between Mexico and South America. This keeps getting narrower and narrower until in one place it is but fifty miles wide. Do you know where that place is?

The Cordilleras are not so high in Central America as they are in North and South America. They are merely high rugged hills in Honduras and Guatemala. In Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica they are somewhat like the Appalachians in the United States.

In Panama the Cordilleras sink lower and lower until in one part they are little more than high hills. When you stand at Cristobal or Balboa, or any of the towns between and look around you at all the ice-cream-cone-shaped hills in the distance, you must remember that you are looking at the Cordilleras.

Sometimes a boy in running a race will go very fast for a while and then slow down a little to get his breath before he again runs faster than ever. That is somewhat the way the Cordilleras do in size in Central America. In Alaska, Canada and the United States the Cordilleras

are very, very high mountains. After they leave Mexico, they keep sinking lower and lower as though trying to get their breath for a bigger spurt yet. And then in South America they get higher and bigger than ever before.

The Cordilleras run clear along the west coast of South America and shut it in just like a huge, almost solid wall over 4000 miles long. In one stretch of more than 2000 miles there is not a pass through to the ocean which is less than 12,000 feet high. That, you know, is *over two miles high!* The highest peak in the whole United States is about 14,000 feet high and we think that very wonderful!

In the Andes the highest peak is Aconcagua, which is over 23,000 feet in height. If you will think of some point about four and a half miles from where you live, and then imagine that place put straight up in the air, it will give you an idea of how high Mt. Aconcagua is. South America has fifteen other peaks, also, that are higher than any of ours!



NATIVE OF
TEHUANTEPEC,
MEXICO

This long mountain wall has done much to hinder the progress of South America because it shuts the interior of the country away from the ocean and keeps the people from shipping products in and out. And you know, of course, that if a country has no commerce it cannot develop very fast.

There is another way by which South America's development has been, and still is, hindered by the Andes. This makes another problem for you to think about. We shall talk first about it as we did about Columbus and the pepper and see if you can find the answer as you did to that question.

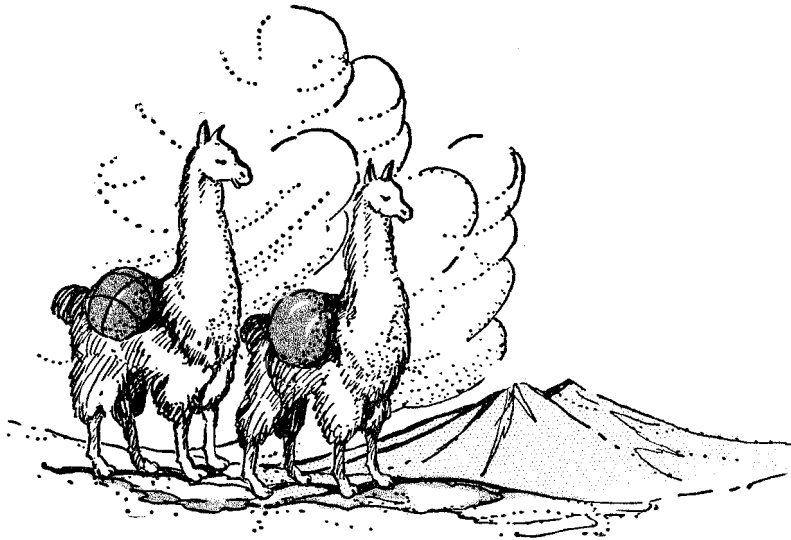
The Andes not only hinder commerce in western South America but they have also prevented her from doing any manufacturing. After we talk about them a bit, let us see if you can decide just *how* the Andes keep western South America from being either a manufacturing or a farming country.

In the first place, do you know what causes rainfall? If you want to illustrate the formation of rainfall by an experiment, fill a glass with cold water from the ice box and hold it in your hand for a while. The *cold* of the glass and the *warm moisture* of the air around it will cause big drops of water to form on the outside of the glass. After a while these will even drip onto the floor. This is a form of rain.

When warm, moist winds blow over cold mountain tops, or when cold winds meet warm winds, the same thing happens in the sky and we have rainfall on the earth. We can't have rain unless something cold meets up with a warm moist wind. And, of course, rain causes trees and plants to grow and in time trees and plants will form coal.

Are you still thinking *hard* about that manufacturing? If you are, you will be thinking of two things particularly which a country needs before it can do much manufacturing.

You know what ocean currents are, do you not? One



LLAMAS—PERU
“Camel of the Andes”

boy I know calls them "wide rivers running through the ocean." Currents are usually such wide "rivers" that they make the winds blowing over them the same temperature they are. If the currents are warm, the air blowing from them as wind is warm. If they are cold currents, their winds will be cold.

Perhaps when you studied the United States you talked of the warm winds that blow from the Japan Current and make the western coast of the United States warmer than the east coast which gets the cold winds from the Labrador Current. If you talked about that, you already know how winds from an ocean current can change the climate of a country.

It is not easy to explain exactly why ocean currents flow as they do, but we know that a long time ago, one big river of icy-cold water, called the Humboldt Current, left the South Pole and started up north toward the equator. It nosed its way up the west coast of South America almost to the equator before it turned off across the ocean. Ever since then that cold current has flowed right by South America, and the cold winds from it have blown straight toward that high mountain wall along the coast. And of course you know that what happens when cold air blows over cold mountain tops is—just nothing! No rain falls because there are no hot and cold temperatures to come in contact.

Because of this icy cold current, the west coast of South America is much colder than the same latitude in North America. And because of it, also, there is no rain. Since there is no rain, there are no trees and grass and the west coast of South America is a desert. Some people say it is the *driest* desert in the whole world. It is much drier than the Sahara because the Sahara does have some oases and a little rain in places; while in this great desert which is mostly in Chile, there is a stretch 1500 miles long where it has *never* rained! As far back as men have any records, not a drop of rain has ever fallen there. Can you imagine how it would seem to some boy who had lived in or near that desert all his life, if he should go to Panama during the wet season?

Nearly all rivers are started by melting snow from mountains. Since there is so little rainfall on the Andes, there is little snow to melt. Therefore, there are few rivers flowing toward the Pacific. What few there are, are very short and many of them disappear into the sand before they ever reach the ocean.

From what you have learned about the climate of western South America, can you decide now for yourself why it is not a farming or manufacturing region? Crops need rainfall; and manufacturing, you know, must have either coal or water power to run machinery. This region has neither. And since there is little farming and no

manufacturing, the people cannot have much commerce because commerce means trading things from one country to another.

Although the Cordilleras have been unfriendly to South America in some respects, in other ways they have been very kind. Some of the richest gold and silver mines in the world are found in the Andes, making that continent a world leader in the production of those minerals. The largest tin mine in the world is found in one of the Andean countries, Bolivia.

Even that great desert in Chile has been of benefit to the country which owns it. Its entire surface is covered with a crusty substance called "caliche"; and from this caliche, nitrate is made.

Nitrate is an important ingredient of gunpowder manufacture and it is also used to fertilize the soil for farming. Chile has the largest natural supply of nitrate in the world and it brings her a great deal of money. Many ships pass through the Panama Canal every year taking nitrate from Chile to the United States and other countries which need it but have none of their own.

Since the Humboldt Current turns westward before it reaches Ecuador, the northern countries of South America are hot and covered with dense tropical vegetation. The word "ecuador" means "equator"; and because the equator passes right through one little country

in the northern part of South America, it is called Ecuador.

Ecuador is very mountainous because it is there that the Cordilleras begin their spurt to get bigger and higher than they are in Central America. Because of that, much of its climate is cool and pleasant in the higher regions, although near the coast it is very hot. Because it has plenty of rainfall, it is densely wooded.

Colombia has some dry barren highlands, but the lower part, lying along the coast, is covered with thick jungles. Venezuela and the Guianas, through which flows the Orinoco River, are much the same. Did you know that the island upon which Robinson Crusoe was supposed to have been wrecked, lies near the mouth of the Orinoco River?

Brazil, which is as large as the United States, is the most densely forested region in all South America. Part of its great jungle region is called the "Matto Grosso" and has never been explored by white men. Through it flows the Amazon, the biggest river in the world. It is navigable for over 3000 miles from its mouth. That is as far as from Panama to New York and half way back again!

For a great many years the Amazon Valley supplied the world with most of its rubber, but since automobiles have become more common, this rubber supply is not

sufficient. Many rubber plantations have been started in other countries during recent years, but the Amazon Valley still supplies rubber for millions of automobile tires, overshoes, hot-water bottles and pencil erasers every year. The southern part of Brazil is often called the "world's coffee pot." Do you know why that is?

South of Brazil lie Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay. Paraguay is heavily forested, but great areas of Uruguay and Argentina are covered with treeless grass lands known as "pampas." They are like big pastures hundreds of miles in extent. On them graze so many cattle and sheep that Argentina now comes next to the United States in the production of beef and mutton.

Chile, that long, narrow country lying along the west coast of South America, has both desert and heavily forested regions. The southern part of it is called the "Switzerland of South America" because of its beautiful lakes, forest-covered mountains and snow-capped peaks. The entire northern part is covered by the great nitrate desert of which we have already spoken.

Chile is often compared with California because it is just as far south of the equator as California is north of it. Like California it also has many different kinds of climate and vegetation. Chile, Argentina and Uruguay are the three most progressive countries in the southern hemisphere and the Chileans sometimes refer

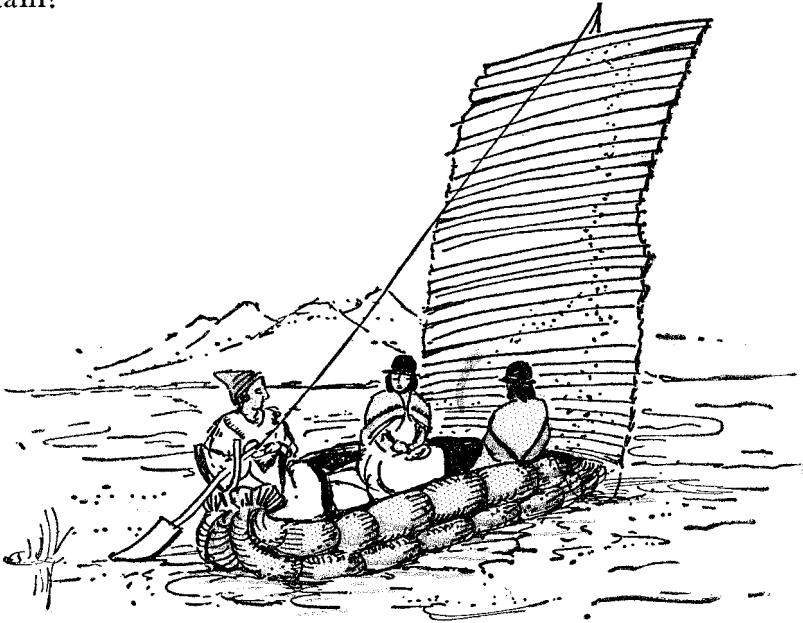
to themselves as the "Yankees of South America." Why do you suppose they say that?

Peru, which lies between Chile and Ecuador, is almost entirely an Andean country; almost all of it being high and mountainous. On the eastern slopes there are some wooded sections, but most of it is dry and barren. Very little of the country is good for farming except on the plains between the ocean and the mountains. On that low, narrow section, however, are produced quantities of sugar, cotton and alfalfa. Did you know that Peruvian cotton is considered much finer than most of that raised in the United States? Peru does not have much farming but she makes a great deal of money from her fine mines.

Bolivia lies east of Peru and Chile. It touches Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina on its southern and eastern borders. It is one of the two countries in South America which have no seacoast. Paraguay is the other.

Bolivia is the highest republic in the world and its capital, La Paz, is the highest capital city in the world. Almost all of Bolivia lies in the highest section of the Andes and is cold and barren. The mines are now nearly all owned by foreigners, and the people of the country are very poor, because the chief wealth of the country lies in these mines which other people own. There is very little farming done, but there are many tin, copper and silver mines.

Between Bolivia and Peru lies the highest navigable lake in the world—Lake Titicaca. It nestles among the great Andean peaks and its surface is almost as high above the ocean level as the *top* of the highest mountain in the United States! Ships were brought piece at a time from the seacoast and rebuilt on its shores and they now sail around on its waters. Doesn't it seem queer to think of ships sailing on a lake that is almost as high above the ocean as the *top* of our highest mountain?



GRASS BOATS—LAKE TITICACA
Native Name: Caballitos—Little Horses

The land around Lake Titicaca is so high and dry that for many hundreds of square miles there are no trees at all. Thousands of boys and girls and men and women living there have never even *seen* a tree! Many of them die when they are old, old people without *ever* seeing one!

In our brief sketch of South America, have you noticed how often we use the words, "largest in the world"? This is one of the things you must remember in your mind picture of South America—that everything there is on a grand scale.

South America has the highest mountain peaks in the western hemisphere and some of the highest ones in the world. Its republics are among the largest in the world and even some of its smallest nations are larger than some of Europe's most important countries. Uruguay, the smallest country in all South America, is larger than England; is larger, even, than the six New England States of our own country. Chile is as long as the distance from New York to San Francisco, while Peru is as large as Spain, France, Italy and Germany combined. Bolivia is large enough to hold sixty Belgiums!

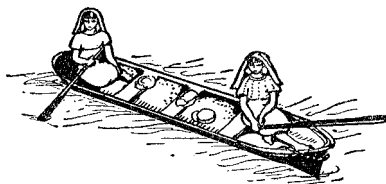
South America has the highest republic in the world. It in turn has the highest capital city in the world. The driest desert and the largest river in the world are both in South America. So, also, is the largest tin mine in the world, the great rubber-producing section in the

world, and the chief coffee-raising region of the world.

In spite of all these unusual features, however, South America, like Central America, is still far behind the northern hemisphere in civilization and advancement. With better roads and better schools to educate the people of the different countries in it, however, South America will be one of the world's most important continents some day. At present there are few roads for either trains or automobiles, and not many schools. You have already learned, have you not, how important roads and schools are in the progress of any country?

One boy I know explained the difference between the advancement of the two continents by saying, "North and South America are both shaped like triangles, being wide at the north and sloping to a point at the south. But—North America bulges in the *temperate* zone, while South America bulges in the *tropics!*"

He was right, for four-fifths of North America is in the temperate zone, while four-fifths of South America is in the torrid zone. Can you tell just what difference he thought that fact might make in the progress made by the two continents?



SAN BLAS INDIANS OF PANAMA
Boat made from hollow logs

CHAPTER IV

Conquest and Colonization of Mexico and Central America

NOT far from Cuba is a beautiful, fertile island which today we call Haiti. Columbus landed on this island on his first trip to the new world in 1492 and called it Hispaniola. It was while he was cruising along its shores on Christmas Day, 1492, that his largest ship, the *Santa Maria*, was wrecked. The *Niña* was close by and her brave sailors managed to rescue the crew of the *Santa Maria*.

With the extra people from the *Santa Maria*, the smaller ship was so overloaded, however, that Columbus decided to leave forty of his men on the island to start a colony. He called this colony "La Navidad." It was the first white settlement in the new world but it did not last. When Columbus returned to it on his second voyage it had disappeared. No one ever knew what had happened to the men in it. They may have starved to death. Some people think they were killed by the Indians.

The second voyage of Columbus, later in 1493, was intended chiefly for colonization. He came to America with fourteen ships on which he carried about 1500 men and women and children. He also brought cattle, pigs, horses, garden seeds and other things necessary for starting a settlement. They established their colony on Hispaniola, not far from the site of La Navidad and named the new settlement "Isabella" in honor of the Queen of Spain.

Columbus was made the first governor of this new colony but the people there did not like him very well as a ruler, so another man named Ovando was sent out from Spain to take his place. Ovando was greatly inter-



COLUMBUS

From portrait in Madrid, Spain

ested in the new country and sent out many expeditions to explore it and start settlements. In 1508 one of these expeditions, headed by Ponce de Leon, a young Spanish nobleman, went to a beautiful island which he named Puerto Rico. A number of settlements were later made on it, among which were San Jose and Ponce. You may still find

these two old cities on your map of Puerto Rico today. It was from Puerto Rico that Ponce de Leon sailed a few years later on the expedition which discovered Florida; the expedition in which he lost his life searching for the "Fountain of Youth."

Although Ovando was a brave soldier he was a very cruel, stern man and made many enemies among the people he ruled. These enemies caused so much trouble that the king finally called him back to Spain after he had ruled but a few years.

The new governor who came out to take Ovando's place was somebody whom you have already heard mentioned. He was that same little Diego Columbus who had been with his father in Spain many years before, when he was trying to get aid for his first great voyage.

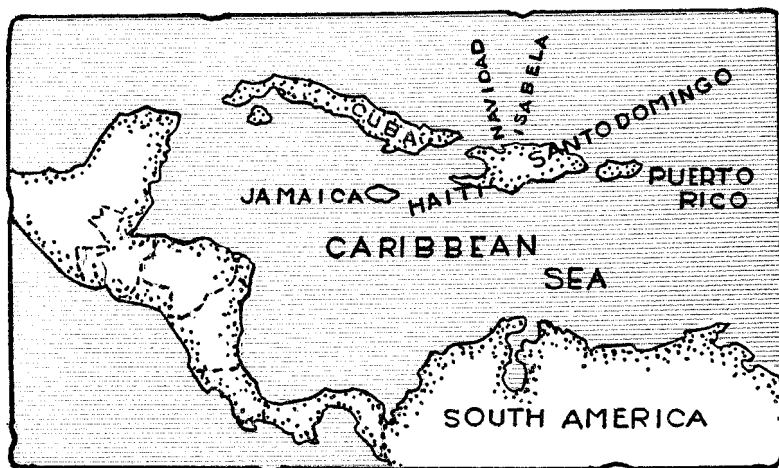
Diego Columbus by now had become a very fine gentleman and was married to a niece of the Spanish king. He was very proud and haughty and cared to associate only with people of high degree. As governor he showed so much partiality toward the king's special friends that he became very unpopular with the other colonists. It was during his administration that African slaves were first brought into the new world by Dutch traders.

In 1511 Diego Columbus appointed Velasquez commander of a force to explore and conquer Cuba. Velasquez was assisted in his campaigns by a young lieutenant

named Narvaez. By means of their united efforts, within three years Cuba was completely under the control of Spain and settlements had been made at Santo Espiritu, Trinidad, Santiago de Cuba and Habana. Several of these same settlements are still standing.

Within twenty years after Columbus made his first voyage, the Spaniards had explored and colonized all of the larger islands of the West Indies—Hispaniola, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Trinidad. Spain believed that “holders” even more than “finders” are keepers, and was making good her claim to the new territory by building settlements.

While all this was taking place in the islands, other



SCENE OF COLUMBUS'S LANDING

expeditions were busy settling the mainland. In 1508 Ojeda, a dare-devil adventurer from Spain, sailed from Santo Domingo with three hundred men and landed where Cartagena now stands. They had hardly started the buildings for their colony, however, when they had trouble with the Indians near by because of the rude way in which they behaved toward the red people.

Had these new-comers been polite and nicely behaved they would have said to the red people who owned the country, "We know this land is yours, but it is so large that there is probably room for us in it, too. We should like to live here and we will teach you many things you do not know if you will be kind enough to let us stay—and show us the things we need to know about living in this strange new country which is so different from our own home-land!"

Instead of saying this, however, Ojeda's men did as all the other early adventurers had in the new world. They acted in a rude, overbearing manner toward the people they met; shouting at them, "We are white men and therefore much better than you are! We intend to take your country from you and if you don't give us food and a great deal of gold, we will shoot and kill you!"

In some places these words frightened the Indians badly, but the tribe which Ojeda and his men met were very brave. They laughed at the words of the white

men and answered their rude demands by shooting poisoned arrows at them. So many of the white men were hit by these poisoned arrows that the others ran back aboard their ships and sailed hastily away. They later landed on the Gulf of Darien and started a settlement which they called San Sebastian.

Since most of Ojeda's men were soldiers, they thought it beneath their dignity to work at such common tasks as clearing land and building houses. And because they spent all their time looking for gold instead of planting crops for food, their supplies began to run low. Ojeda, fearing starvation for his men, decided to leave one of his young helpers, Francisco Pizarro, in command of the colony while he sailed to Santo Domingo for food. Before he left, he told the colonists that if he had not returned in fifty days, they should leave.

Ojeda's ship was wrecked in a storm before he reached Santo Domingo and most of his crew were drowned. Ojeda, himself, managed to swim ashore and after many hardships reached a white settlement. He was not able to get help for his colony, though, so never returned to it.

After Ojeda left for Santo Domingo, the San Sebastian colonists suffered greatly from sickness and lack of food. They wanted to go to Cuba but could not because their two ships would not hold everybody. Pizarro finally settled the difficulty by ordering no more medicine given

to sick people. They, then, died faster! When so many had died that the rest could get on two ships, they sailed away. This is the first time Pizarro appears in new world history, but from then on he was very active in its affairs. It was he who later conquered Peru and started the shameful destruction of that great empire.

Of the two ships in which the settlers from San Sebastian started toward Cartagena on the way to Cuba, only the one commanded by Pizarro managed to reach port safely. The other was wrecked in a storm and all the men on board were drowned. When Pizarro's ship-load of people reached Cartagena, they met there another expedition which was on the way to relieve them. It was commanded by a brave Spanish officer named Encisco.

With Encisco's expedition was a handsome young Spanish officer who had come aboard the ship in Haiti as a stow-away in order to get away from the people to whom he owed money and who were going to put him in jail if he did not pay them. His name was Vasco Nuñez de Balboa.

Together, Encisco's and Pizarro's ships started back toward San Sebastian but both vessels were wrecked on the way. Many of the men on board were drowned, but those who managed to swim ashore, named the gulf where they landed, the Gulf of Darien. On shore they

founded the settlement of Santa Maria del Darien.

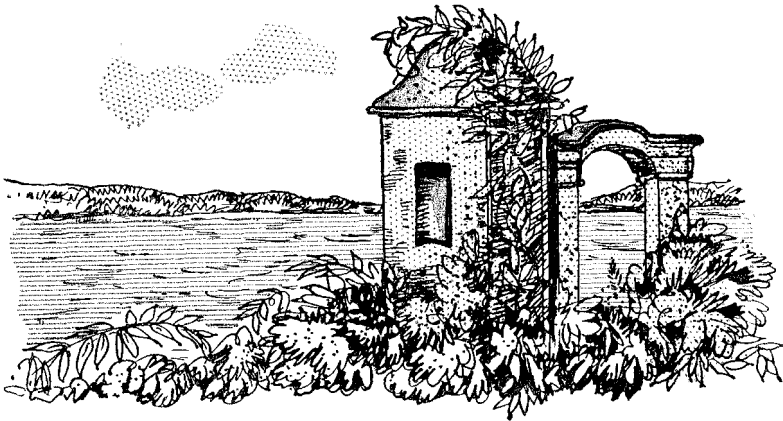
While the colonists who had started out with Ojeda were having all these unhappy experiences, another expedition under a bold, black-bearded leader named Nicuesa, had landed on the Isthmus of Panama with seven hundred people and started a colony at Veraguas. Hunger and hardship, however, finally caused them to abandon their settlement. As they were sailing along the coast a few days after they had left their colony, they passed a deep beautiful harbor which Columbus a few years before had called Porto Bello, or "Beautiful Harbor."

The people on the ships thought this place looked so pleasant that they stopped to explore it. When they reached land the tired sailors said, "This place looks good to us. In the name of God let us stay here!"

This they decided to do and were soon joined by Pizarro's and Encisco's colonists who had given up their settlement at Santa Maria del Darien. All working together they built a wooden fort and some houses to live in. They called their new home "Nombre de Dios," which means "Name of God." Those were the words spoken by the weary, discouraged sailors when they first landed there, you remember, after their wearisome adventures at sea. It was the first lasting colony of white people on the mainland of America.

The Spanish officer, Nicuesa, was chosen governor of Nombre de Dios, but as a ruler he was so harsh and cruel that the rest of the colonists grew to hate him. They finally rebelled and threw him into prison. Later on, they put him and seventeen of his best friends upon an old leaky ship and set them adrift in a rough sea. They were never heard of again.

After the people of Nombre de Dios were rid of Nicuesa, they made Balboa their governor. He was popular with the colonists and even the Indians liked him better than they generally did the white men. He was sometimes cruel to them but he treated them better than did most of the Spaniards who had come to their country. They admired him, too, because he was so brave and called him "The Man Who Knows no Fear." Some



WATCH TOWER OF PORTO BELLO

of the chiefs told him about a great sea to the west, and of a golden kingdom to the south of Panama. Their stories sounded so exciting that he began to long to go in search of these two wonderful places.

Because Balboa liked exploring much better than he did the less exciting job of being governor, he spent much of his time making expeditions into the surrounding country. He finally did what he had longed all the while to do—started across the Isthmus with two hundred men in search of the great sea which he had heard about so often. On September 25, 1513, he caught sight of it from the top of a high hill. After four more days of very hard work he reached it. Wading out into the water he took possession of the newly discovered ocean in the name of the King of Spain. He called it the South Sea and named the gulf where he found himself, the Gulf of Darien. He immediately conquered the Indians he found there, but treated them so kindly that they became his friends.

When Balboa returned to Nombre de Dios after having been gone for several months, he found a new governor had taken his place while he was absent. This was Pedro Arias de Avila, also known in history as "Pedro Arias" and as "Pedrarias."

The two men had trouble immediately, as might have been expected. Later they pretended to like each other

better, although they really did not. Balboa did not trust Pedrarias and Pedrarias was jealous of Balboa. He was afraid the King of Spain, who admired bravery among his army officers, would hear about the daring deeds of Balboa and put him back in charge of the colony which Pedrarias then ruled. He therefore decided to get rid of Balboa before he became too well known for his bravery.

Accusing Balboa of treason, Pedrarias sent Pizarro, who was then one of Balboa's own lieutenants, to arrest him. Brought before the wicked old governor, Balboa was given a pretense of a trial and immediately beheaded. Thus perished the third great conquistador of early America. Ojeda died in Haiti, Nicuesa was set adrift and lost at sea, and Balboa was unjustly beheaded by a jealous rival. In that first colony, however, was one man who was to become an important figure in early American history. This was Francisco Pizarro, the man whom Ojeda had left in charge of San Sebastian and who later led the expedition which conquered Peru.

Before Balboa's death, he had talked much about a great kingdom to the south, of which the Indians had told him. He wanted very much to go in search of this fabulous land and, with the permission of Pedrarias, had had some ships carried across the Isthmus in pieces and rebuilt on the Pacific Coast. At the time of his death he was planning two ventures—the establishment of a

Spanish colony on the Pacific Coast, and going on an exploring trip to the lands south of the equator. It was Pizarro who carried out the latter dream of his dead captain.

After Balboa's death, Pedrarias sent out numerous expeditions to explore the territory over which he ruled. Because of the reports his men brought back, he finally decided to carry out one of Balboa's plans and establish a Spanish settlement on the other side of the Isthmus. He heard favorable reports of a pleasing location on the Pacific where there was an Indian village. It was located on a bay whose name, Panama, meant "Many Fish."

Pedrarias finally arranged an expedition and started across the Isthmus with the intention of planting a colony on this fine location. On the way he stopped at an Indian settlement which was called Pacora in honor of its chief or "cacique." Chief Pacora received the white men very graciously but was treated harshly by them in return for his hospitality. A small native village still stands where the old Pacora used to be.

Arrived at the village of Pacora, Pedrarias captured it. A few miles farther on he founded the town of Panama, now known as "Panama Viejo" or "Old Panama." He then gave each of his followers a grant of land and sent soldiers out to capture Indians for slaves so that each colonist had from ten to twenty to use in

clearing the land and building houses. They treated these Indian slaves very badly and the poor natives died in great numbers under their abuse. The soldiers kept capturing others all the time, however, so the settlers always had plenty of servants to work for them.

Soon after Panama was founded, a road was started



ALONG THE GOLD ROAD

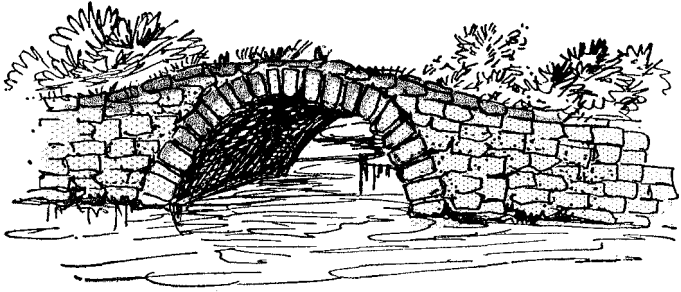
across the Isthmus to connect Panama with Porto Bello. It was not completed for many years, but when finished, was said to be a very fine highway. It was well bridged, well paved, and was wide enough everywhere for two carts to pass each other. The stones for it were carried from distant mountain quarries by Indian slaves. This was such hard work that many thousands of them died before it was completed.

This road across the Isthmus was called "Cruces Trail" or the "King's Highway." For many years it was the only connection between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. After the conquest of Peru, the valuable shipments of gold brought from that country to be sent to Spain, were taken across the Isthmus on this roadway by mule and slave trains and then reloaded upon great galleons which were anchored in the bay at Porto Bello. Parts of this old highway may still be seen in many places in the jungle around Panama. One of its bridges, now called the "King's Bridge," crosses a little stream along the road not far from the old city of Panama.

While Nicuesa, Ojeda and Balboa were having all these dangerous and stirring adventures on the mainland of Central America, the Spanish island colonies grew rapidly. Plantations for the cultivation of sugar cane, rice and tobacco flourished. Since there was a great demand for these commodities in Spain, many farmers

came from the home country and brought their families along. They built homes and became happy and prosperous trading with the mother country. These farmers were wise because they knew that the real way to become rich in the new land was to work and raise things to sell to the people back home.

With the increase of farm work, laborers for the fields were needed; so Velasquez, the governor of Cuba, de-



THE "KING'S BRIDGE"

cided to send a slave-gathering expedition from that island to the mainland. Cordoba, a Spanish general, headed this force which landed on the shores of what is now Yucatan. There the Spaniards found a higher type of civilization than any they had yet seen. They saw beautiful temples, good roads, and farms that looked well tilled and prosperous.

So fiercely did these natives resist the advance of the Spaniards that they were driven off. Cordoba himself

was wounded and many of his men were killed. Discouraged, they sailed back to Cuba, where Cordoba died from the wound he had received. Velasquez at once organized another expedition and put a soldier named Grijalva in charge of it. With a big supply of arms and ammunition this band sailed for the mainland and landed farther north, near where Tampico stands today.

Grijalva heard from the Indians whom he met there, constant reports of a vast kingdom farther inland whose ruler was both powerful and rich. Hastening back to Cuba he told Velasquez what he had heard and begged permission to lead an expedition in search of this rich empire.

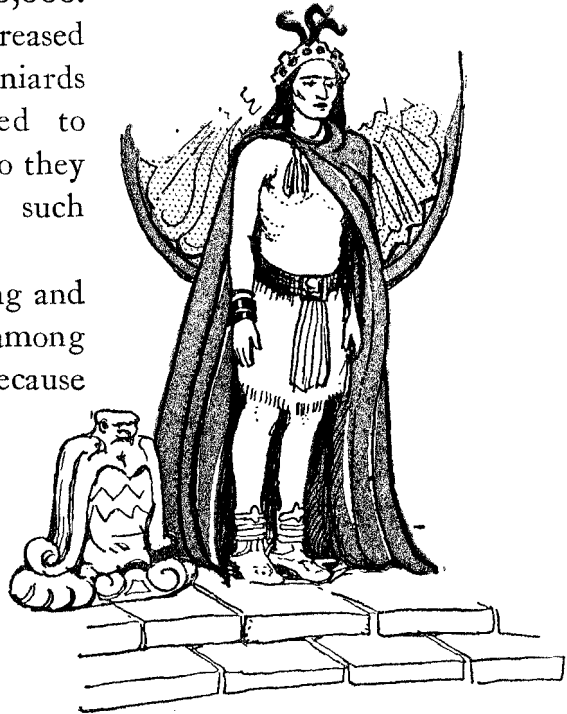
Velasquez immediately organized the necessary forces but appointed Hernando Cortez, his brother-in-law, as its leader. The fleet sailed in November, 1518; about the time that Pedrarias was marching across the Isthmus of Darien to found the city of Panama.

Cortez took with him 12 ships carrying 500 soldiers, 100 sailors, some negro slaves, and 16 horses. The soldiers were armed with crossbows, firelocks, swords and spears. They also carried with them ten cannon. Establishing themselves on the coast of Mexico they sent messengers to the Aztec ruler telling him of their intended visit to his kingdom.

When Montezuma, the Aztec ruler, heard of the

white men's approach he sent his representatives to them bearing presents, but forbidding them to approach his capital city of Mexico. Two hundred nobles and a hundred slaves made up an embassy which bore rich gifts for the Spanish invaders. The most valuable of these gifts were enough grains of pure gold to fill a Spanish helmet, and two great plates the size of cart wheels; one of silver and one of gold. These were later found to be worth over \$200,000. These gifts only increased the greed of the Spaniards and they determined to capture the country so they could get more of such treasure.

As usual, quarreling and bickering broke out among the Spanish troops because some of them wanted to return to Cuba. Cortez, however, was determined to carry out his conquest of the country and in order that his men could not desert



MONTEZUMA

him, set fire to all his ships and burned them. Then there was left no choice but to go forward.

At the time the Spaniards landed in Mexico the country was in a state of turmoil. Montezuma was not popular with his people because he taxed them so heavily, and because a number of tribes were ready to rebel at the slightest encouragement, they became friendly with Cortez. He got a number of these dissatisfied tribes to join him as he went toward Mexico City. Later they knew they had been very foolish to fight against their own ruler and help the white invaders, but they did not find this out until it was too late.

The government of the Aztec Empire was a well organized one and in the beautiful capital city the monarch lived in greater splendor than some of the kings of Europe. There was one room in his palace where he could entertain three thousand people. The public market place was large enough for fifty thousand traders to buy and sell in it. Mexico City was declared by the Spaniards who entered it, to be the finest city in the world and one which has never since been equaled.

Montezuma treated the strangers graciously because of an old religious belief among his people. According to this superstition, Quetzacoatl, the god of the air and known as "The Fair God," had once lived among them, causing them to prosper greatly. He had left the coun-

try many years before but had promised to return some day from the east.

When Cortez, a white man, with his followers, landed on the eastern shore of Mexico, many of the natives believed him to be the returning Fair God. This accounts for the ease with which he was able to enter the country. By the time Montezuma realized his mistake, it was too late.

Cortez had decided his best move would be to get possession of the ruler himself. Therefore when Montezuma politely came to call upon the visitors, he was seized and thrown into prison. He was then forced to pay his captors a ransom of \$7,000,000 or be put to death. This made his subjects so angry that they determined to get rid of the wicked intruders and made a brave attack upon them.

In order to protect himself and his men Cortez forced Montezuma to step out upon the balcony of the palace and ask his people to stop fighting the strangers. When Montezuma did this, the crowds called him a traitor and threw stones at him. One of these rocks struck him and injured him so badly that he died the next day from the hurt.

Cortez then decided it would be wise for him to get out of Mexico City if possible. He started his retreat under cover of night, but the Aztecs found out about it

and attacked him furiously from all sides. The slaughter of the invaders was so great that the event has ever since been known among the Spanish as “La Noche Triste”—the night of sorrow.

Instead of leaving the country after this dreadful defeat, Cortez rallied helpers from the surrounding tribes and sent back to Cuba for more men and horses. With these forces he attacked and captured all the smaller towns around the capital and then laid siege to Mexico City itself.



“LA NOCHE TRISTE”

After five months of furious fighting the beautiful city was reduced to ruins, its Aztec defenders surrendering in August, 1521. From then on the laws of Spain ruled the land.

After Mexico was subdued, Cortez sent out raiders to explore and subjugate the peoples to the south. One of these expeditions was headed by Alvarado who was assigned the special task of conquering the territory known as Guatemala. At that time it included part of what is now southern Mexico and the two near-by republics. He made such a ruthless, caustic job of this assignment that the ruler of Spain was delighted with him. As a reward for his success the king promised him one-twenty-fifth of everything he should either conquer or discover in the new world.

One very interesting incident occurred during Alvarado's administration. The king of Spain was anxious to have Guatemala filled with white families, so issued a decree stating that all men who held encomiendas, or royal grants of land, would lose them unless they got married within three years from that date. Moreover, those who held Indian slaves should forfeit them to men with white wives.

This proclamation caused a great outcry among Guatemala's conquerors, because there were so few eligible white women in the new country. The nearest ones were

in Mexico City, much too far away for courtship. Then, besides, most of the conquistadores were so battle-scarred and ugly that few white girls would have accepted them as husbands. These unmarried men were so worried that they finally took their problem to Governor Alvarado who promised to help them save their property if he could. He kept this promise by bringing twenty pretty, aristocratic girls along when he and his wife returned from a visit to Spain in 1539. He had persuaded these girls to accompany him to the new world where they would be married to his friends.

At the reception held in honor of the governor's return, many of these unmarried conquistadores were present. The maidens were hidden behind a screen where they could take turns peeping out at the festivities and catch glimpses of their prospective husbands. They were greatly shocked and disappointed in the looks of the men they were to marry—many of whom had lost an ear, an eye, a nose, a leg, hand or arm; and all of them had badly scarred faces from so much fighting with swords and pistols.

“Are those to be our husbands?” exclaimed one of the girls in dismay. “Those old fellows? One would think from the way they are scarred and maimed that they had escaped from the infernal regions. The devil take them, I say!”

The friend to whom she spoke replied, "We are not marrying them for their good looks, Carmen. All we want is to inherit their land and Indian slaves. Don't worry—they will soon die and then we can marry handsome young men. It is the same as exchanging an old broken kettle for one that is new and sound!"

These first girl pioneers found life in America so interesting, however, that they persuaded many of their friends to do as they had and in this way Guatemala was finally settled by many white families.

It was soon after the episode of the maidens that reports of a wealthy region to the north, in Mexico, reached Alvarado and he joined the expedition which was setting out to conquer it. As the result of a disastrous battle with hostile Indians in Mexico he was killed. When his wife, Doña Beatriz, heard of his death, she ordered the entire country into deepest mourning. She painted her home deep black both inside and out and even had the cathedral draped in black. She herself refused either to eat or sleep, repulsing all consolation of friends or religion. She really seemed so grief-stricken that people feared lest she lose her reason. Her sorrowing ended suddenly, however, when the Guatemalan authorities, fearful of a rebellion among the colonists, asked her to act as ruler until a new governor should be sent from Spain.

At the invitation Doña Beatriz dried her tears with astonishing alacrity and accepted the honor. The inauguration ceremony took place immediately and she was installed as the acting governor of the country. An unkind fate, however, decreed that she should not be permitted for long either to prove or to disprove woman's ability to rule a colony.

Guatemala's capital city, Santiago, was situated on the high, steep slope of an extinct volcano which cradled an immense lake in its enormous crater. Shortly after the inauguration ceremony that region suffered a prolonged period of torrential rains which filled this crater to the brim. A sudden volcanic eruption then crumbled its encircling walls, whereupon the waters of the lake swept down the mountain sides, washing away houses, bridges, fields, people—everything in its path. Doña Beatriz having signed herself as *La Sin Ventura*, the hapless one, gathered her maidens about her and fled to the cathedral. The raging flood, however, inundated and swept away even the chapel in which they were praying, drowning them all. This was the tragic end of the only white woman ever to rule a country on the American continent.

It was during Alvarado's régime in Guatemala that Cortez himself led an expedition which attacked Honduras and brought it also under the Spanish rule. It was about this same time that Pedrarias, the governor of

Panama, sent Davila northward to conquer some territory belonging to a wise old Indian chief, Nicaragua. The country was later named after him. A few years later Costa Rica was given to its conqueror, Gutierrez, by the king of Spain. Montejo, another Spanish adventurer, completed the conquest of Yucatan.

Thus it was that by 1530, less than forty years after the first voyage of Columbus, Spain had conquered and colonized all of what is now Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. It was also in 1530 that she set her seal upon South America. We shall learn of this in the next story.



THE WATERS OF THE VOLCANO LAKE SWEEP DOWN
THE MOUNTAINSIDE

The Conquest of Peru

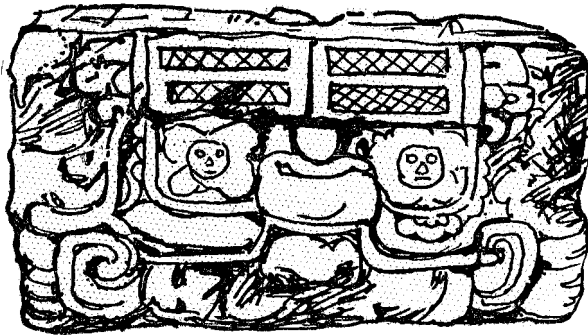
DURING Balboa's various expeditions throughout the Isthmus of Darien he heard constant rumors of a wonderful kingdom to the south of Panama. He was so eager to set sail for this reputed land of gold that he finally collected three hundred men who were willing to follow him and prepared to set out on his adventure. Before he could accomplish his purpose, however, he was put to death by jealous old Pedrarias.

Francisco Pizarro, a coarse, ugly man who had been one of the three hundred recruits of Balboa, finally decided to head such an expedition himself if he could raise enough money to finance it. Because he was very poor, though, it was several years before he was able to carry out the plans of his dead captain.

Panama City had been founded by Pedrarias, a roadway was started across the Isthmus of Darien, and an expedition under Andagoya had attempted to reach Peru and failed; all before Pizarro realized his ambition to lead such an expedition southward. He finally formed a partnership with a priest from Panama named Luque

and another adventurer like himself, Almagro. By trying very hard they managed to fit up two old vessels in which they started southward in 1524. They had had so little money to get ready for the trip, however, that they had to return because of a leaking ship and lack of food. They made several other starts, all of which were failures, but in 1530 they finally landed on the coast of Peru with 183 men and 37 horses.

They marched along the coast, capturing several native towns and securing some gold which they sent back to Panama in hopes that it would tempt other adventurers to join them. They heard constant rumors of a vast inland empire presided over by a fabulously rich ruler who was second in power only to the Sun himself. This ruler was known as the Inca or Emperor of Peru; and Pizarro, remembering the successful conquest of



MAYAN ALTAR

Mexico by Cortez, determined to march inland, attack him and conquer his country.

Next to the Aztecs in Mexico, the Indians of Peru had the most highly developed civilization in all the Americas at the time their country was invaded by the white men. They had large cities, wonderful temples, good roads and a well organized government. They knew how to fertilize the soil and irrigate dry land so it would raise good crops. They had learned to weave fine cloth and blankets from the wool of the sheep, alpaca and vicuña. They raised cotton, potatoes and corn. They had taught the llama to carry light burdens and they knew how to make beautiful articles from gold and silver. No one in the world, either before or since, has been able to do finer work in stone building than they.

Does it not seem queer that a small band of rough, lawless foreigners could enter such a country and make slaves of all its inhabitants in a very short time? In order to understand just how Pizarro and his followers managed to do this, we must learn a little about the history of the Incas and the condition of affairs in their country at the time the Spaniards invaded it.

To begin with, let us ask a question. When one baseball team goes to play another team, which team is easier to beat—one where the players quarrel and argue among themselves, or one where they forget “family”

differences and work together to win a victory? The answer to that question will help explain the victory of the Spaniards in Peru.

When Pizarro and Almagro landed in South America with their followers, they met a native and asked him a question about the country. His answer was "Pelú," which is the Indian name for "river." Neither one understood the other but the Spaniards from then on called the country where they had landed, "Pelú." In time this was changed to "Peru," which has been the name of the country ever since.

The Peruvian Empire at that time took in almost the entire northern half of South America and had its capital at Cuzco. The people of the country belonged to two great tribes, the Quechuan and Aymaran, but the Spaniards called them "Incas," from the name by which their ruler was known.

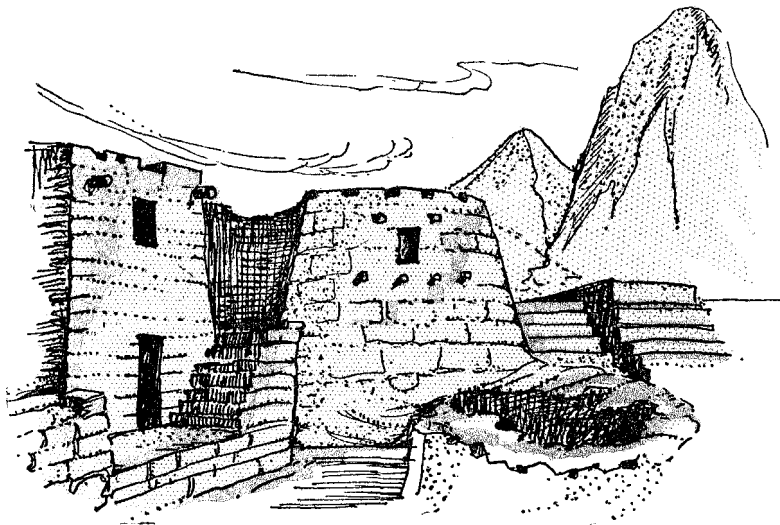
There had been other people in South America long before the coming of the Incas, but we know little or nothing about them. We don't really know very much about the beginning of the Incas, either, but this is the story which is told to all boys and girls of Peru by their grandfathers. It is called a "legend," which means that it is an interesting story but may not be true, all of it.

Many, many years ago, according to this story, all the tribes of the earth were very ignorant and wicked.

They were always fighting one another and even practiced cannibalism at times. They knew nothing of civilization or God and were really very dreadful people.

Finally the Sun, the great father of all mankind, felt so sorry for these unfortunate people, that he decided to teach them how to be better. He therefore called before him his strongest and handsomest son, Manco Capac, and his fairest and loveliest daughter, Oello Huaco, and told them to go to the earth and teach the people there, how to be civilized.

When they started on their journey the Sun Father



RUINS OF MACHU PICCHU
Inca Empire in Peru

gave his children a great golden wedge. They must keep journeying, he said, until this wedge should of its own accord sink into the earth; and upon that spot they should build for him an Empire of the Sun.

The story goes on to tell that just at sun-up one morning a few days later, Manco Capac and his sister wife sprang from an island in the middle of Lake Titicaca—that great high lake between Peru and Bolivia of which we talked a little while ago. Even to this day that island is called “The Island of the Sun.”

The two Incas left Lake Titicaca and journeyed northward day after day through a high mountainous country until they finally came to a beautiful fertile valley where the golden wedge sprang from their hands and disappeared in the earth. Upon that spot they started the city of Cuzco which became the capital of the great Incan Empire. Cuzco is an Indian word meaning “navel.”

“Papa Manco Capac,” as he is now called, began at once to teach the men how to farm and build houses. “Mama Oello Huaco” showed the women how to spin, weave and keep house. The country grew and prospered until by the time Pizarro landed there in 1530 it was one of the two most powerful nations in the new world. The other powerful country was that of the Aztecs in Mexico.

The Incan government was somewhat like that of Russia today. Their rulers believed that no one should be either rich or poor, but that everyone should have exactly the same amount of property. Each child, therefore, was given a certain amount of land when he was born. He kept this as long as he lived and at his death it went back to the government. He could never sell this land nor could he buy that belonging to anyone else.

Every Incan subject had to work a certain number of hours each day but the crops were all put into a common storehouse. A lazy man got just as much as the one who worked hard, so after a while most of the people stopped trying to do better work or more work than others. This is always a bad thing for a country.

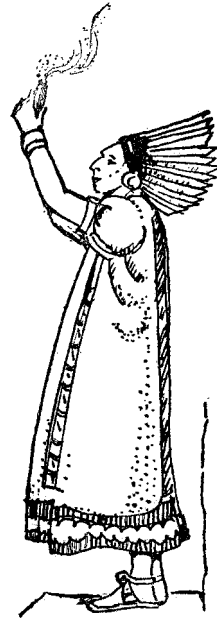
For many years Russia has been working to get all her territory into "collective farms," where everybody will work the same number of hours and everything they produce be owned together. The trouble with such a plan is that it discourages good workers who can never advance farther than the lazy ones. If everyone in a class were given the same grade whether he worked his arithmetic problems or not, most girls and boys would think after a while that there was not much use in doing them, wouldn't they?

We call trying to do more and better work than some one else, "competition." A certain amount of competi-

tion among her people is good for a country. When there is no competition the people do only what they are told to do and forget how to think for themselves. This is what happened to the Incas. We shall understand a little better just how this came about if we learn something about their government and customs.

The one great god worshipped by all the people of Peru was the Sun, and beautiful temples for him were built all over the country. The most beautiful of these was the great "Temple of the Sun" in Cuzco. It was said to be the most gorgeous building in all America at the time the Spaniards invaded the country.

Since the ruler of the country was supposed to be related to the Sun, the people worshipped him next to the Sun and did only what he ordered. His wife was chosen from among his sisters and their eldest boy was always the next ruler of the country after his father's death. In that way the emperor was always descended directly from the first Sun children. The Inca had many other wives but his sister-wife was the real queen and was called a "coya."



INCA HIGH PRIEST

When the Inca died the people believed his spirit went home to the Sun but would come back to earth once in a while after death. His palace, therefore, was closed up and left just as it was when he lived in it. This was so it would be all ready for his spirit whenever it returned to earth for a visit! At his death all his servants and wives were killed and buried near his tomb so they could be with him in the other world!

In one great room of the Sun Temple in Cuzco were kept the bodies of all the country's past rulers. The people of Peru had learned to preserve the bodies of the dead, just as the Egyptians had long ago, and the mummies of their rulers were kept carefully in this temple instead of being buried. Often on religious feast days these mummies of the dead Incas would all be dressed in fine robes and carried in the processions and parades!

The last of the great Incan rulers of Peru was Huayna Capac. He was a good ruler and lived to be a very old man, but at the end of his life he could not decide who his successor should be. Huascar was his lawful heir but he liked another of his sons, Atahualpa, better. He finally decided to divide the kingdom between the two boys, so gave half to each one, begging them to rule peaceably and not quarrel after his death. This they both promised.

Huascar was a kindly, good-natured man who was

willing to do as his father had asked. Atahualpa, though, was ambitious and greedy. He wanted to be the sole ruler of the entire kingdom and very soon after his father's death, started a war against Huascar. By trickery he managed to capture Huascar and threw him into prison, telling him he would not be released until he promised to give up his part of the kingdom. The people of the country all took sides with one brother or the other and before long they were engaged in what we call a "civil war."

It was just about this time, while the country was in a state of turmoil, with all the people fighting among themselves, that Pizarro and his followers landed on the coast of Peru and started marching inland. The people then, instead of uniting to drive out the invaders, acted like baseball players who lose a game by wrangling among themselves; each side trying to get the strangers to help it against the other. In this way both sides get beaten.

When Atahualpa heard that some great white chiefs were coming to see him, he wanted to gain their friendship for himself. He therefore took a large company of nobles and went to meet them at Caxamalca, about half-way between Cuzco and the seacoast. He took no soldiers with him because he thought it would look as though he were unfriendly to the visitors.

Pizarro had heard so many stories of the greatness and wealth of Cuzco that he was determined to capture it. He also remembered how Cortez had managed to conquer Mexico by seizing Montezuma and had decided to do the same thing when he met the Inca. Therefore, when Atahualpa came to his camp for a friendly call, the Spaniards leaped upon him before his surprised attendants realized what was happening. They then threw him into prison and slaughtered many of his helpless followers.

Here is where the Incan government proved to be a very bad one, indeed. The people had been taught that they could do nothing that was not ordered by the Inca. With him in prison and no one to command them, they were helpless—and did nothing to set him free.

Atahualpa was treated kindly at first by his captors, but was told that they could not release him until they had decided whether he or his still imprisoned brother, Huascar, should be the ruler of the country. This was only an excuse for keeping him a prisoner, but Atahualpa, fearing Huascar would be made emperor instead of him, sent secret orders and had him drowned.

When the Spaniards heard of this they told Atahualpa that he would have to be put to death for murdering his brother. Now Atahualpa had found out that the white men desired gold above everything else. He therefore

walked to the side of the room where he was imprisoned, and making a mark on the wall as high up as he could reach, promised to fill the room that full of gold and silver if he would then be allowed to go free. Pizarro agreed to this, although he had no intention of keeping such a promise.

For six months the gold and silver came in from all over the empire. Vases, altar decorations, temple ornaments, and personal jewelry—all sorts of valuable things were brought in by the people of the country who wanted their ruler freed. They worked so hard that at last the bargain was fulfilled—with the room full of gold and silver. The Spaniards, however, still kept making excuses for keeping the Inca a prisoner.

Pizarro knew, of course, that he would have trouble in making the people of the country obey him as long as the Inca was alive, so had decided to put him to death. Therefore, instead of releasing him as he had promised, Pizarro informed him that he was to be burned to death at the stake because he was not a Christian.

Atahualpa pleaded so earnestly to be spared this terrible cruelty that Pizarro finally agreed to put him to death by strangling, instead, if he would be baptized and become a Christian! This the unhappy ruler promised. He was baptized shortly thereafter and was then strangled to death with a bowstring in the public square of Cuzco.

When the Spaniards melted down the treasure which Atahualpa had paid them for his freedom, they found it to be worth \$16,000,000. One-fifth of this was sent home to the King of Spain and the rest divided among Pizarro, Almagro and their men.

After the death of Atahualpa, his conquerors started at once to subdue the people of the country. Ruthlessly they destroyed beautiful cities; tearing down temples and wrecking fortresses. In order to make themselves complete masters of the country they meted out very terrible punishments to all who opposed them in any way. After a while the people obeyed them, giving Spain another big country to add to her list of new world possessions.

The governors whom the King of Spain sent to Peru after its conquest were nearly always cruel, stern men. They cared little about the welfare of the people they governed, whether they were Indians or their own white people. They were interested only in sending home great quantities of gold so they would become more popular with their king. They treated the Indians very badly, but were almost as unjust and unfair in the way they treated the white people of the country who were their own colonists. Naturally this made everyone, both Indians and white people, dissatisfied with Spanish rule. It was this selfish greed of the Spanish officials which

finally caused Spain to lose all her possessions in the new world.

For over two hundred years Spain's colonists endured her bad rule. She took away their liberties, taxed them unmercifully and did everything which a wise government should not do. Her first trouble came when a revolt broke out among the people of Peru and Bolivia under the leadership of a brave young Incan descendant, Tupac Amaru.

Tupac Amaru was a well-educated man, part Spaniard, and bravely led his forces against the king's soldiers. He was finally defeated, though, and through the treachery of one of his own men, fell into the hands of the Spaniards. The viceroy at Lima ordered him put to death by torture in the public square of that city before thousands of spectators. Among these were the wife and children of the prisoner who were forced by the king's soldiers to watch the terrible sight.

The sentence against Tupac Amaru was carried out in 1781 in the city of Lima and news of it spread quickly over all Latin America. It did more than any other one thing to stir up the hatred among other colonists which finally caused Spain to lose all her new world possessions.

Although the white people of South America finally won their independence from Spain, the Indians are still a down-trodden race. Even though they are no longer

enslaved by white masters, they have never regained the proud independence which they enjoyed before the coming of the white men to their country.

It is because these uneducated Indians make up at least four-fifths of the population of Peru and Bolivia that these countries have not become industrialized. The Indians do very little manufacturing. They herd sheep and llamas, do a little farming, and work in the mines. Because they earn such small wages they own no property. Having little money they can buy almost nothing, so do not help much toward building up their country's commerce.

The Arucanian Indians who lived south of Peru in what is now Chile were not so timid and peaceful as the Incas. After the Spaniards had conquered Peru, Almagro took a large number of enthusiastic followers and started south to subdue the Arucanians and despoil their country as they had that of the Incas. The Spanish captain met such fierce resistance, though, that he returned hastily to Peru.

The Arucanians were finally conquered, but only after a hundred years of fighting which cost not only many Indian lives, put many Spanish lives as well. Even today they are a more independent race than the Indians of Peru. Do you suppose it is because they have always lived in a cooler country?

Although the conquest of Peru seems unjust and unfair to us today, it was nevertheless, the reason for Panama's rapid growth. Such vast shipments of gold and silver were sent home to Spain by way of Panama that it grew rapidly in size. It was said to be the most important commercial city in the western hemisphere at the time it was destroyed by the English pirates under Morgan in 1671.



PERUVIAN MARKET WOMAN

CHAPTER VI

High Tide of Spain's New World Power

THE Pope, you remember, gave a part of the new world to Portugal and it happened that Brazil was in that territory. Americus Vesputius and other adventurers explored it and started trading colonies there which later brought a great deal of money to Portugal. Besides this, Da Gama, another Portuguese sailor, reached India by going around Africa. Portugal thus built up such a large spice and silk trade that Lisbon became the busiest port in the world at that time.

This prosperity of Portugal naturally did not please Spain because, for the first thirty years of her explorations, she got little or no riches from her new-world investment. After the conquest of Mexico and Peru, however, gold in such great quantities began to be sent to Spain that Portugal was left far behind in the race for wealth. The mines in these two countries proved unbelievably rich and as the years went on and her colonies grew, Spain received a constantly increasing flow of gold from the new world.

Farming, too, was started on a large scale in the West Indies and Central America. The raising of horses, cattle, bananas, cocoa, rice, sugar cane and tobacco built up a prosperous trade with the mother country. After the first thirty or forty years this trade made a great deal of money for Spain.

Gradually thousands of Spanish families settled in the new land. Spanish cities and fortresses were built and the language and customs of Spain in time prevailed throughout the entire southern hemisphere. The native Indian populations were gradually crowded out and their places taken by vast numbers of Negroes brought from Africa to work in the mines and on the plantations.

For almost three hundred years after the discovery of America, Spain's holdings in the new world continued to increase in wealth and importance until they were the



ANDEAN WOMEN OF PERU

envy of all the countries of Europe. Panama, especially, though not large, grew to be the most important of all these possessions. The vast riches of Peru were brought to Panama year after year and carried over the Cruces Trail to Porto Bello and there loaded upon ships bound for Spain. This trade caused both cities to increase in size.

In time the King's Highway came to be looked upon as a pathway between the East and West; not only for Spain but for the rest of the world as well. Merchandise from Europe and the Orient moved constantly from ocean to ocean over it. This interesting world trade caused Panama Viejo to grow until it was considered the richest and most important city in all America.

In order to protect her trade route across the Isthmus of Panama, Spain built strong forts at Porto Bello and at San Lorenzo at the mouth of the Chagres River. These were so large and formidable that Spain was sure there were no soldiers in the world who could capture them.

While Spain's dominion in the new world was growing year by year, however, England, France and Holland were also increasing in size and power. News of the vast riches which Spain was getting from her new-world colonies naturally made these other countries jealous and they began to wonder how they might get some of this gold for themselves. None of them liked Spain very

well and all were very glad when they at last found a way to take some of her wealth away from her. They did this by entering a quarrel with her and this is how it all happened.

About the time Spain began exploring and conquering the new world, a very vain and selfish king, Henry VIII, was ruling England. He was married to a Spanish princess, Katharine of Aragon, and they had one small daughter, Mary. Katharine was older than her husband, though, and in time he grew tired of her and wanted to marry one of her court ladies, Anne Boleyn. To do this he had to have a divorce, so asked the Pope to let him get one.

England at that time was a Catholic country and when the Pope refused to grant Henry a divorce, he decided to start a different church in England and be the head of it himself. This he did. Then he granted himself a divorce and married Anne Boleyn! The Church he started is now called the Protestant Church.

Henry VIII was still very fond of the ladies and when Anne's little daughter, Elizabeth, was only two years old, he made up his mind to marry another lady at court! In order to do this, he ordered Anne's head cut off. Jane Seymour, the girl he then married, died when their son, Edward, was very small. Henry had three other wives after that, but he had no more children.

It was his little son, Edward VI, who became king when Henry died suddenly a few years later. Edward was a quiet, studious boy and probably would have been a good king had he lived longer. He, however, died when he was but sixteen years old and his sister Mary, the daughter of Henry's first wife, became queen.

Mary's husband was Philip II of Spain. You already know from the way Philip allowed his representatives to act in the new world, that he was not a very good or kind man. He was, however, a stern church member and so was Mary. To her he said, "Now, since we do not like this new religion that caused your mother so much trouble, let us get rid of it!"

Mary agreed and he helped her think up terrible punishments for everybody in England who did not worship as Philip and Mary wanted them to. As Queen she ordered so many people killed that her subjects called her "Bloody Mary." They hated her so intensely that they shouted and cheered when they heard of her death.



QUEEN ELIZABETH

Mary's younger sister, Elizabeth, became queen after her death. Right away Philip said to her, "Now, since I am your brother-in-law and you are very young, you must let me tell you how to rule England!"

Elizabeth, however, did not like some of the things Philip had done and refused to listen to him. When she insisted especially upon letting her people belong to whatever church they wished, Philip grew very angry and, in the quarrels which followed, he and Elizabeth became bitter enemies. Then, just as children often quarrel because their parents are not friends, the people of both Spain and England became enemies, too.

England was a small, unimportant country at that time, while Spain was rich and powerful, so Philip was able to do many things to cause Elizabeth annoyance. England was too weak to fight Spain openly but Elizabeth managed to get even with Philip anyway.

A sea captain named Francis Drake came home to England one day. He had just captured some big Spanish galleons loaded with Peruvian gold which was being taken from Panama to Spain. Drake told Elizabeth about his adventure and she was delighted. She told him privately that she hoped he would capture more, a great many more, Spanish treasure ships!

When the news leaked out that Elizabeth enjoyed hearing about the capture of Spanish galleons, many other lawless Englishmen decided to follow Drake's example. Because of this, piracy became very common.

Philip grew so angry over these continued insults to his flag that he finally sent a great fleet called the "In-

vincible Armada" to fight England. Drake and his bold men destroyed a part of this fleet and a great storm at sea destroyed the rest. This defeat crippled Spain so badly that she never again attacked England. After the sinking of the great Armada, more English pirates than ever began to sail the seas looking for Spanish treasure ships to capture.

When the adventurer class in France, Portugal and Holland saw the lawless English pirates gaining great riches by robbing ships, they too set out to capture loads of treasure. Before long it was not safe for any Spanish vessel to sail the seas.

For many years these English pirates attacked ships only, but after a while they began worrying the Spanish settlements in America. They would swoop down in a band on some little peaceful Spanish farm settlement in the new territory and would rob the people, set fire to their homes, drive off their cattle and horses, and murder men, women and children. They claimed they had a right to do this because their country was at war with Spain! They were like a gang of "toughs" who break into a little boy's yard and destroy his toys—and say they have a right to do it because their parents are not friends!

Francis Drake, a little bolder than the others, attacked and captured many Spanish ships. He died of malaria

and was buried at sea not far from Porto Bello, but not before he had sacked many Spanish towns in Central America and carried off a great deal of treasure. He and his men even lay in wait along the Cruces Trail at one time and attacked a pack train of treasure from Panama! It was while lying in the bushes of the jungle after dark, however, that he was bitten by mosquitoes and took the malarial fever from which he died.

Panama, being on the Pacific Coast, was not troubled by pirates. She continued to grow richer and more important year after year and was not at all afraid of pirate attacks. The Isthmus was difficult to cross and its only road belonged to her. She could post her soldiers along the way and kill any enemy who tried to pass.

Panama, however, was too rich a city to be entirely overlooked by the greedy pirates and the time came when the safety which its people had enjoyed so long came to an end. One day the governor of Panama, Antonio Tello de Guzmán received a note from a notorious English pirate, Henry Morgan. At the head of a large band of buccaneers he had captured and sacked Porto Bello, robbing the people, torturing and putting many of them to death and burning their homes.

In his note to Governor de Guzmán, Morgan boasted that he intended doing the same thing to Panama a little later. The governor sent back word that any pirates who

attempted to enter Panama would be given such a hot reception that they would be glad to leave very quickly!

Morgan, however, excited by his success at Porto Bello, made up his mind to attack Panama City, and began to make careful preparations for the venture. Jamaica was then the gathering place for pirates when they were not plundering ships, so Morgan sailed to Jamaica to get followers and vessels. Before long he had collected 2000 of the most desperate, brutal men to be found there. With this band and forty ships he sailed at once for Old Providence Island which is not far from Panama. It was easily captured.

Collecting much ammunition and arms from Old Providence, the pirate band sailed directly to the mouth of the Chagres River to attack Fort San Lorenzo. Morgan knew it would be dangerous to travel along the Cruces Trail, so he decided to row up the Chagres to where Gamboa now is, and then go through the jungle to Panama. The Spaniards, he thought, would not know he was coming and he would thus be able to surprise them.



PIRATE MORGAN

In order to do this he had first to overcome the fort guarding the entrance to the Chagres. This was

done after a few hours of furious fighting. After murdering most of the inhabitants of the fort and burning many of the buildings inside, the pirates rested in San Lorenzo for a few days. While there, they decided how they would divide the spoils they expected to get. They also agreed what was to be paid to the ones wounded in the fighting to come.

The loss of two arms or two legs, they agreed, would entitle a man to fifteen slaves or \$1600. One arm or one leg, six slaves or \$750. The loss of an eye would give a man one slave or \$125! After these conditions were all agreed to, they set off on their journey up the Chagres, highly enthusiastic over their first two successes.

The journey up the river was not easy but it was when the pirate band started through the jungle that their real troubles began. They had brought no food, expecting to live as usual, by robbing the country they passed through. The natives, however, hearing of their approach, had fled from the villages taking all provisions with them and burning everything that was left behind.

The invaders, as a result of what the natives had done, at times had to chew grass and leaves to satisfy their hunger. They would not give up, though, and nine days after leaving San Lorenzo they came to the top of a high hill and caught sight of water in the distance. They

then yelled and danced with joy because they knew they were not far away from Panama City.

You boys who box, know that the best way to gain an advantage over an adversary is to go after the other fellow before he can come after you, do you not? If the governor of Panama had known anything about boxing he would have sent his soldiers to meet Morgan's band in the jungle when they were worn out and half dead from starvation. Hidden behind trees, it would have been easy for the Spaniards to shoot all the pirates be-



MORGAN'S MEN

cause they were too weak from hunger to fight back very strongly.

Instead of doing this, and even though he had known for three weeks that they were coming, however, the governor allowed the buccaneers to come right up to the city without doing a thing to stop them. And, more foolish even than that, he left herds of cattle grazing in the fields. These furnished the hungry attackers plenty of good beefsteak to revive their strength before starting to fight.

Morgan captured Panama without a great deal of difficulty. The Spaniards for so many years had been used to fighting Indians who were not very dangerous enemies, that they had forgotten how to meet fierce adversaries like Morgan's desperate band. The governor of Panama had almost four thousand foot soldiers, four hundred cavalrymen, and a large number of Indians. Morgan had only a third as many men armed just with weapons which they carried in their hands. Nevertheless, in spite of these great odds in favor of the Spaniards, the pirates captured the city in seven hours.

Morgan knew the kind of men he had with him, so ordered them to drink no wine or other liquor, telling them it was poisoned. He was afraid if his soldiers got drunk, as they were sure to do, the Spaniards would attack and overpower them. They disobeyed his orders,

though, and for three weeks they drank heavily, abusing the inhabitants dreadfully.

When the people of Panama had first heard of the pirates' approach, some of them buried their jewels and other treasures. Some of them threw their valuables into the wells of the city, knowing they could be recovered after the invaders had departed. Still others gathered their possessions and put them on a ship sailing for Peru. On board this ship, also, were many Spanish ladies and nuns from the convents.

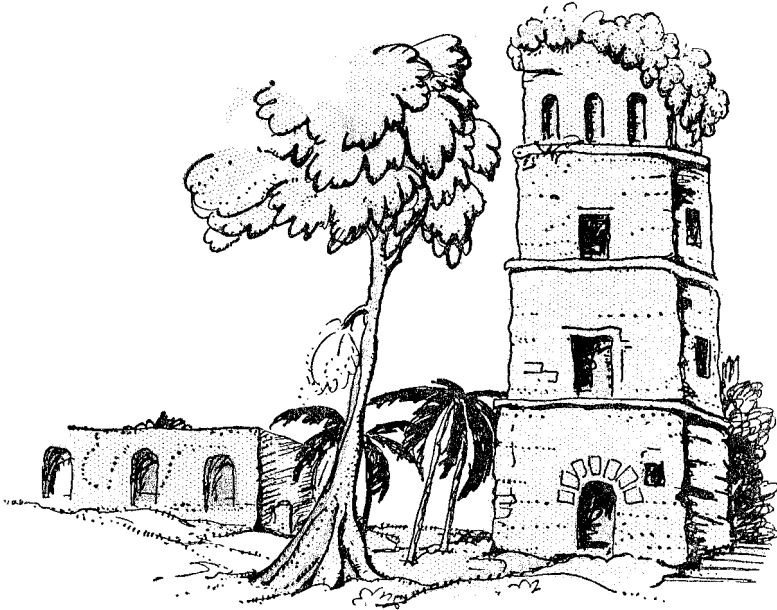
After the city fell, Morgan's men immediately started searching the city and torturing the people to make them tell where their gold was hidden. Many of these people were poor and had no riches at all, but they were tortured to death anyway, because the pirates did not believe them. The desperadoes delighted in cruelty; and old men, old women, and even children, were tortured to death when the notion happened to strike their drunken captors.

In the midst of the looting a great fire broke out in the city and burned night and day for three weeks. When it was finally stopped, Panama was in ruins. Some people think Morgan started this fire, because he bragged and boasted of having done it, after he reached England. When Governor de Guzmán sent his report of the raid to Spain, however, after the departure of the pirates, he

said *he* had ordered the city burned in order to cheat the pirates!

We do not know for sure which of these stories to believe, but we do know that Panama, a lovely city with fine churches, a beautiful cathedral, a hospital, seven monasteries, the King's Stables, and hundreds of elegant homes, was completely destroyed when the pirates finally left it. The only buildings spared were the government buildings and one church.

In this church was a beautiful carved wooden altar



RUINED TOWER—OLD PANAMA

which had been brought from Spain. It was later moved to a new church in the Panama City of today. In order to preserve it from decay it was covered with pure leaf gold a few years ago. The church which now holds it is generally called the "Church of the Gold Altar," although its real name is "San Jose"—which means "Saint Joseph."

When Morgan left the ruined city of Panama three weeks after its downfall, he took with him so much loot that it required nearly two hundred mules to carry it all. Besides this, he took about seven hundred men, women and children who were to be sold into slavery in Jamaica unless they could pay the heavy ransoms he demanded for their freedom. He believed they would try harder to get this gold if they were suffering, so he took little trouble to see that they had either food or water on this long march. Many of them, therefore, perished of hunger and thirst before they reached San Lorenzo, toward which he drove them.

At San Lorenzo the pirates began quarreling among themselves over the division of the loot—as might have been expected. Morgan, having no sense of honor whatsoever, one night gave his men some barrels of native rum and wine to drink to celebrate their success. Then while they were all too drunk to know what he was doing, he and a few of his best friends loaded the most

valuable booty upon three of the ships and sailed away to Jamaica.

Fearing pursuit, they hid this treasure upon a small, uninhabited island and went on to Port Royal, in Jamaica. They intended to go back and get this treasure when it was safer to do so. There are many people who think Morgan could not find his gold when he went back to look for it a few months later. That is why so many treasure-hunting expeditions still go searching for it, even today.

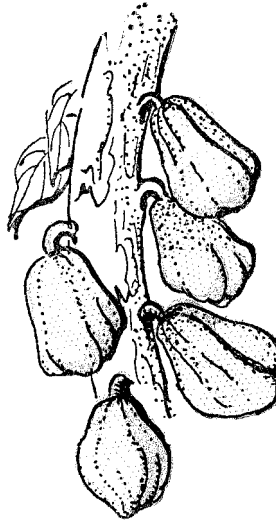
In England Morgan was called a great hero for what he had done! The rest of the nations, however, were shocked over this wicked destruction of a great city by a band of lawless ruffians. England therefore had to promise to join the other countries and help rid the sea of pirates. She accordingly outfitted an expedition to go out and help capture sea robbers and punish them.

You could never guess who was appointed England's leader in her share of the pirate hunting. It was Henry Morgan, now called Sir Henry Morgan! Perhaps England believed in the old saying of "Set a thief to catch a thief"! Morgan was very skillful at catching these law breakers and he was said to be very stern toward anyone brought before him, accused of being a pirate!

Spain decided not to rebuild her ruined city of Panama. Instead, she started a new city a few miles away

where it could be better protected and easier defended if it were attacked by enemies. The old city was destroyed in 1671 and the very next year the new city was founded. It is known to us as the Panama City of today. It was protected by a strong sea wall and a well fortified fort, and although it was attacked by pirates several times during the century after it was founded, it was always able to defend itself and drive them away.

This old fortress was later made into Chiriqui prison. After Panama moved her prisoners to Coiba Island a few years ago, however, it was closed up and abandoned. Parts of it are used for a boys' school today.



COCOA PODS

CHAPTER VII

Spain's Downfall in the New World

DID you ever hear the story about the dog with a nice, juicy bone who trotted over a bridge and saw his picture in the water below? And do you remember how he lost his own delicious bone because he greedily opened his jaws to seize that belonging to the other dog, thus letting his own fall into the water?

Spain with her new world possessions was somewhat like the dog in that story. The large amounts of money which she received from her colonies was her nice juicy bone—which she lost by foolishly trying to get more. Just as England's colonies to the north broke away from the mother country because of her bad government of them, so unjust taxation of her colonists caused Spain finally to lose her entire new world empire also.

From her first appearance in the new world, Spain claimed as hers one-fifth of all treasure found or mined by anyone in her colonies. This brought vast sums of money into the country's treasury and made her kings

very rich men. Not content with this, however, she next compelled all conquered Indians to pay a heavy yearly tax to the crown. This increased the royal income a great deal more.

Still not satisfied, Spain next imposed a sales tax called an "alcavala," by which everything, no matter how small, which one person sold to another, was taxed. If a man sold his neighbor a horse, he paid a tax for doing so. If he sold a cow, a farm, a loaf of bread or a pair of shoes to another person, he paid a tax. At first this tax was small but Spain, like the dog with the bone, was never satisfied with what she had; so kept doubling and redoubling it to get more money all the time.

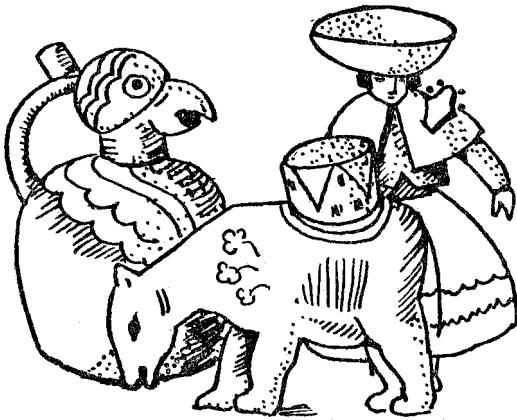
Another tax was levied upon all articles brought into the colonies and this was very heavy. A barrel of flour, for instance, was charged a tax of \$11. This the merchant must pay in addition to its cost in the first place and the freight across the ocean. This made flour so expensive that only very rich people could eat bread.

Still another tax compelled a man who butchered one of his own pigs for food, to pay the government 32 cents. If he butchered a sheep he was charged 37 cents, and for the privilege of eating one of his own cows he had to pay \$3.50! Besides all these charges there were hundreds of others which kept the Spanish colonists overburdened with taxes. When they could not pay, their

homes were taken from them or they were thrown into prison and cruelly abused. Naturally these injustices made the people of the country hate the country which forced them upon her loyal subjects.

Another reason for discontent among the colonists was the way they were governed. Spain's new-world holdings at first were divided into two great kingdoms: New Spain, which included Mexico, Central America and the island colonies—whose capital was Mexico City. The other half of the new world empire was called Peru and included all of Spain's possessions in South America. Its capital was at Lima. Each kingdom was ruled by a viceroy appointed by the Spanish king.

Since a viceroy was the king's agent while he was in



PERUVIAN NATIVE ART

America, he was the same as a king himself in the colonies. He appointed his own helpers and his word was law. He levied fines and taxes, granted pardons and ordered punishments as he saw fit.

Since the viceroy had the power of a king and the colonists had no choice in electing him or in making their own laws, you can see that a good viceroy could do a great deal of good for the people, but that a bad one could be very bad to them indeed. From what you have already learned of the early Spaniards, would you expect Spain to send out many good viceroys? Naturally there was much dissatisfaction among the colonists because of the bad viceroys and the men they appointed to collect taxes for them. These men were almost all very cruel and unwise in their treatment of the people under them.

Another cause of trouble in the colonies was the rivalry among the different classes of people. The Spaniard who came from Spain was called a *chapeton* and belonged to the highest class of society in the new world. Below him was the *creole*, a white Spaniard who had been born in America. The king and viceroys gave many favors to the chapetons which were refused to the creoles. This caused much jealousy between the two classes.

Below the creoles came the *mestizos*, the people who were half Spanish and half Indian. Beneath the *mestizos*