

THE COLUMBIA SPY.

AND LANCASTER AND YORK COUNTY RECORD.

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COLUMBIA, PA. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1847.

[Whole Number, 914.]

CHARRICK WESTBROOK,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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TERMS.—The COLUMBIA SPY is published every Saturday morning at the low price of ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE, or one dollar and fifty cents, if not paid within one month of the time of subscribing. Single copies, THREE CENTS.

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A vigorous prosecution of the War, the best means to secure a speedy and

HONORABLE PEACE.

No. 42. Front St. No. 42. Front St.

WALNUT COLONNADE,

CHEAP FASHIONABLE

CLOTHING EMPORIUM.

JAMES L. PRESTMAN.

No. 42, Front street, directly opposite the

Bridge, and three doors below Black's Hotel,

COLUMBIA, PENNA.

Would respectfully call the attention of the public to his stock of *Fashionable and Cheap Clothing*, which exceeds in extent, elegance, and variety, any hitherto opened in this vicinity, and which he pledges himself to sell at prices lower than when he has before offered. Just look at the prices:

Gentlemen's Fine Cloth Dress

Coats, from \$5.00 to \$10.00

Gentlemen's Fine Cloth Trench

Coats, from 4.00 to 10.00

Gentlemen's Fine Cloth Sacks

and Coats, from 2.50 to 5.00

Gentlemen's Fine Cloth and Cas-

simere Pants, from 2.00 to 4.00

Satin and Silk Velvet Vests, Plain

and Fancy, being the only kind

of this quality for sale in this

place, from 2.50 to 4.00

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Shirts, plain and fancy, 37 1/2 to 1.50

Satinet Pantaloons, 1.50 to 3.00

Gentlemen's Cotton Half-hose, 67 1/2 to 1.25

" Silk Handkerchiefs, 37 1/2 to 1.00

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Cravats, a new article, 37 1/2 to 1.00

Suspenders, 67 1/2 to 37 1/2

Unbrillies, 31 1/2 to 1.50

Leather and Hair Trunks, 50 to 1.00

Travelling Bags and Valises, 1.00 to 2.50

Ladies' Travelling Bags, a beauti-

ful article, 2.00 to 2.50

A Large Assortment of Fine and Medium Cloaks.

ALSO—A large assortment of

BOYS' CLOTHING,

Such as Pants, Vests, Roundabouts, and Shirts, and, in short, every article of apparel required by the gentleman, the mechanic or the laborer, with a variety of fancy goods, calculated to tickle the taste and secure the patronage of all classes and conditions of men.

My thanks are due, and I hereby tender them to the world of my patrons, for former and present patronage, and to prove the sincerity of my gratitude, by uniting efforts to furnish a Fashionable Wardrobe to every patron of the *Colonnade Hall of Fashion*, as cheap as the cheapest, and as good as the best.

REMEMBER THE 3 BIG DOORS,

the place to buy cheap clothing, No. 42, Front Street, Columbia, Pa., directly opposite the Bridge, and three doors below Black's Hotel.

For further particulars, enquire of the Captain on board.

Columbia, Oct. 9th, 1847.

N. B. A branch of the above establishment, where all the articles enumerated, and at the same prices, may be obtained, has been opened in No. 4, Stricker's Walnut Front.

NEW FALL GOODS.

The subscribers have just received their supply of Fall and Winter, Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, to which they invite the attention of their friends and the public generally.

CLOTH, CASSIMERES, &c.

Their stock consists of superior French, and English Black, Blue, Brown, Mixed, and Olive Cloth; plain and Fancy Cassimeres, Satinets, Tweeds, Jeans; Velvet and other Vestings.

Giv de Rhine, Swiss and Matteone Dress Silks.

ALPACAS—Plain, Plaid, and Striped, at 18, 25, 31, 37, 50 cts., &c. English, German, and French Merinoes; Plain Paris Cashmeres and De Laines, Lama and Taiter Plaids.

French, Earlston and Manchester Gingham; Prints of every style and price; Plain and Plaid Linseys; Taper Gauze and other White and colored Flannels.

A splendid assortment of Trimmings, Gimps, Silk and Cotton Fringes; Thread, Victoria and Bobbin Edgings and Insertings; Lisle, Victoria and Brussels Lace, Collettes, Glove, Hosiery, &c.

SHIRTINGS.—Three quarters, four quarters, five quarters, six quarters and ten quarters Bleached and Brown Sheetings, Blankets, Tickings, Checks, Dockings, &c.

A splendid assortment of Trimmings, Gimps, Silk and Cotton Fringes; Thread, Victoria and Bobbin Edgings and Insertings; Lisle, Victoria and Brussels Lace, Collettes, Glove, Hosiery, &c.

RECEIPTS.

Loaf, Polverised, Crushed, Havana and Brown Sugars; Syrup, L. H. N. O. Molasses; Honey; Rio, Lagayra and Java Coffees; and the superior Teas of the Canton Tea Company of New York. Oils, Fish, &c. ALSO:

China, Glass & Queensware.

All of which will be sold as LOW as the LOWEST, for cash or produce.

Thankful for the liberal share of patronage heretofore received, they will by strict attention to business endeavor to merit a continuance of the public's favor.

J. D. & J. WRIGHT.

Columbia, Sept. 1847.—if

Stoves, Stoves.

The subscribers have constantly on hand a full assortment of Wood, Coal, and Cooking Stoves of every size and description, Cannon Stoves. Also, Headenburgh's Patent

AIR-TIGHT PARLOR STOVES,

which has given full satisfaction in all cases. The public are invited to call and examine for themselves, at the Hardware Store of

Oct. 9—17 RUMPLE & NESS.

A FRESH assortment of all kinds of the best

spices just received at

Sept. 17—17 YOUNG & CASSEL'S No. 50.

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.

Ye who would save your features florid
Like limbs, bright eyes, unwrinkled forehead,
From age's devastation horrid,
Adopt this plan—
A little old man—
"Will make, in climates cold or torrid,
A hale old man."

Avoid in youth luxuriant diet;
Restrain the passions' lawless riot;
Devoted to domestic quiet,
Be wisely gay;
So shall ye, spite of age's fiat,
Resist decay.

Seek not in mammon's worship, pleasure,
But find your richest, dearest treasure
In books, friends, music, polished leisure;
Let mind, not sense,
Make the sole scale by which ye measure
Your opulence!

This is the solace—this the science—
Life's purest, sweetest, best appliance,
That disappoints not man's reluctance,
While 'ere he starts;
But challenges, with calm defiance,
Time, fortune, fate.

From Little's Living Age.

CONQUEST OF PERU.

History of the Conquest of Peru, with a Preliminary View of the Civilization of the Incas.

The historian of the Conquest of Mexico worthily completes that labor with a History of the Conquest of Peru. It is very ably executed. Though the materials are less brilliant than those of the struggle and adventure of Cortez, we derive from the present work a higher impression of the writer's powers. The style is less forced. The subject is as thoroughly grasped, with an easier treatment.

It is not a paradox to say that Mr. Prescott's partial blindness, unassumingly described in the preface to the present work, enables him, in an historical sense, to see with greater depth and accuracy. He has to weigh all his authority with a thoughtful intusiveness; nothing is rejected (as with the best inquirers occurs too often) on a cursory and imperfect glance; all has to be considered with impartial care; his materials stored in the mind before the pen is taken in hand, have time to assimilate with his habits of thought and most natural modes of expression; and the result, in the present as in former instances, is exhibited in historical writing of a very high order. Mr. Prescott avows himself a disciple of the Barmat school of history. He would place his readers amid the vivid realities of the scenes and times of which he writes; but with the means of critical judgment as well as of clear perception. And for the most part he succeeds in this. Excellent are his descriptions of events, and in the discrimination of results he is generally just and fair.

The history before us is constructed like its predecessor. In an introductory book the native institutions of the Incas, as they existed before the fierce and bloody inroads of Pizarro, are elaborately portrayed; and the remaining books are occupied with the narrative of the conquest, and of the desperate feuds of the conquerors. For the conquest of Peru differs from that of Mexico in the singular importance of the events which intervened before the final settlement of the country. Less than ten years were employed in the victory, and upwards of twenty in taming the victors. Mr. Prescott has vividly set before us these rude, fierce brutes, omitting no finer trait with which his Spanish heroes may seem to have redeemed their ferocity, their bigotry, or their barbarous rapacity.

The condition of a country at the period of its subjugation must always in some sort determine the moral justice of the conquest and the character and motives of the conquerors. So considered, we know nothing in history so striking as the difference which presents itself in estimating the proportions of glory and of shame to be awarded to Spain, in respect of her rapid conquest of the two remarkable nations which had begun the work of civilization on the great western continent. There seems little reason to suppose that the Mexicans and Peruvians were even conscious of each other's existence; yet were they both, almost simultaneously, pursuing a career of conquest over barbarous races, one in the north and the other in the south, with results (in respect of the conquered) in many respects strikingly similar, though by means—and with effects upon themselves—directly opposed.

At the time when Spain stepped in upon the scene, the contrasts of character and civilization in Mexico and in Peru were as those of darkness and of light. And here we find the source of the satisfaction which we cannot but contemplate, with all its drawbacks, the career of Cortez; and of the shame and sorrow with which, notwithstanding much that redeemed them, we peruse the achievements of Pizarro.

Mr. Prescott's materials have been more abundant for description of the condition of the Incas, than he possessed in describing that of the Aztecs, and there is nothing more interesting in the present book than these introductory chapters. They paint a picture of Peruvian civilization which indeed is startling. We may compare it, too, in its origin and growth, by Mr. Prescott's help, with that of the Mexican. We may observe, in war, the exterminating system of the Aztecs, side by side with the more prudent policy of amalgamation pursued by the Incas. We may contrast the grinding fear with which the Mexicans held down the inferior race, and were weakened by it; with the paternal love by which the Peruvians raised it up, and received strength from its adhesion. In religion, in agriculture, in all the larger details of government, the same marked superiority exists. In what may be termed the more learned arts, on the other hand; in astronomy, in the means of communicating thought, and even in the minute mechanical arts; the Mexican appears to have excelled the Peruvian. Why this should have been, would open a difficult question. The broad types of civilization which occur in pursuing the comparison are evidently those of the Aztec and the Peruvian. Mr. Prescott finds resemblances to the Chinese, the Hindoostanee, and the Egyptian, in his description of the Aztecs; but their government would seem to have been at once the most patriarchal and most absolute that ever existed in the world. It was a theocracy more effective than that of the Jews; a

despotism more potent than that of Catholic Rome. Individual rights had no existence in it. In a land where manufactures and agriculture had made large advances, where even social refinements exercised singular influence, where public works were carried to an extent unprecedented—money did not exist; property seems to have been unknown; and, unless by express sanction and aid of the government, the exercise of any craft or labor, the indulgence of any amusement, a change of residence or of dress, even the selection of a wife, were prohibited to the Peruvian. Government pervaded and overlooked all. The monarch had the authority of divinity; only less divine, and with a power which supported yet never controlled his own, were the class of hereditary nobles; and to these, in their untied away, there was absolute and unconditional submission. It is impossible to account for the moral and physical condition of a people apparently so enslaved—as that condition was discerned at the period of their conquest—except by the supposition of a most gentle, careful, and patriarchal administration of these powers.—We must assume it to have been so, to a most extraordinary degree. The people were governed as by a loving but exacting father.

A native of that same New World on which the experiment was tried, and from which it has passed without leaving a trace or vestige, now writes its strange history; doubtful, it may be, if the very opposite experiment which has followed, and is now in actual progress, will have a better or more enduring fate!

"It is not easy to comprehend the genius and the full import of institutions so opposite to those of a free republic, where every man, however humble his condition, may aspire to the highest honors of the state—may select his own career, and carve out his fortune in his own way; where the light of knowledge, instead of being concentrated on a chosen few, is shed abroad like the light of day, and suffered to fall equally on the poor and the rich; where the collision of man with man wakens a generous emulation that calls out latent talent and tasks the energies to the utmost; where a consciousness of independence gives feeling of self-reliance unknown to the timid subjects of a despotism; where, in short, the government is made for man—not as in Peru, where the man seemed to be made only for the government. The New World is the theatre on which these two political systems, so opposite in their character, have been carried into operation. The empire of the Incas has passed away and left no trace. The other great experiment is still going on—the experiment which is to solve the problem, so long contested in the Old World, of the capacity of man for self-government. Alas for humanity, if it should fail!"

"We must not judge too harshly of the unfortunate native, because he quailed before the civilization of the European. We must not be insensible to the really great results that were achieved by the government of the Incas. We must not forget, that under their rule, the means of the people enjoyed a far greater degree of personal comfort, at least a greater exemption from physical suffering, than was possessed by similar classes in other nations on the American continent—greater, probably, than was possessed by these classes in most of the countries of feudal Europe. Under their sceptre the higher orders of the state had made advances in many of the arts that belong to a cultivated community. The foundations of a regular government were laid, which in an age of rapine secured to its subjects the inestimable blessings of tranquillity and safety. By the well sustained policy of the Incas, the rude tribes of the forest were gradually drawn from their fastnesses, and gathered within the folds of civilization; and of these materials was constructed a flourishing and populous empire, such as was to be found in no other quarter of the American continent."

The extraordinary union of the despot and patriarch in the character of the Inca, will be noted in this curious extract:

"The sovereign was placed at an immeasurable distance above his subjects. Even the proudest of the Inca nobility, claiming a descent from the same divine original as himself, could not venture into the royal presence, unless barefooted, and bearing a light burden on his shoulders in token of homage. As the representative of the sun, he stood at the head of the priesthood, and presided at the most important of the religious festivals. He raised armies, and usually commanded them in person. He imposed taxes, made laws, and provided for their execution by the appointment of judges, whom he removed at pleasure. He was the source from which everything flowed—all dignity, all power, all emolument. He was, in short, in the well-known phrase of the European despot, 'himself the state.'"

"The Inca asserted his claims as a superior being, by assuming a pomp in his manner of living, well calculated to impose on his people. His dress was of the finest wool of the vicuña, richly dyed, and ornamented with a profusion of gold and precious stones. Round his head was wreathed a turban of many-colored folds, called *llautu*; and a tasselled fringe, like that worn by the prince, but of a scarlet color, with two feathers of a rare and curious bird, called the *caraqueque*, placed upright in it, were the distinguishing insignia of royalty. The birds from which these feathers were obtained were found in a desert country among the mountains; and it was death to destroy or to take them, as they were reserved for the exclusive purpose of supplying the royal head-gear. Every succeeding monarch was provided with a new pair of these plumes, and his credulous subjects fondly believed that only two individuals of the species had ever existed to furnish the simple ornament for the diadem of the Inca."

"Although the Peruvian monarch was raised so far above the highest of his subjects, he conde-

sended to mingle occasionally with them, and took great pains personally to inspect the condition of the humbler classes. He presided at some of the religious celebrations, and on these occasions entertained the great nobles at his table, when he complimented them, after the fashion of more civilized nations, by drinking the health of those whom he most delighted to honor.

"But the most effectual means taken by the Incas for communicating with their people, were their progresses through the empire. These were conducted, at intervals of several years, with great state and magnificence. The sedan, or litter, in which they travelled, richly emblazoned with gold and emeralds, was guarded by a numerous escort. The men who bore it on their shoulders were provided by two cities, especially appointed for the purpose. It was a post to be coveted by no one, if, as is asserted, a fall was punished with death. They travelled with ease and expedition, halting at the *tabos*, or inns, erected by government along the route, and occasionally at the royal palaces, which in the great towns afforded ample accommodations to the whole of the monarch's retinue. The noble roads which traversed the table-land were lined with people, who swept away the stones and stubble from their surface, and sowing them with sweet scented flowers, and vying with each other in carrying forward the baggage from one village to another. The monarch halted from time to time to listen to the grievances of his subjects, or to settle some points which had been referred to his decision by the regular tribunals. As the princely train wound its way along the mountain passes, every place was thronged with spectators eager to catch a glimpse of their sovereign; and when he raised the curtain of his litter, and showed himself to their eyes, the air was rent with acclamations as they invoked blessings on his head. Tradition long commemorated the spots at which he halted, and the simple people of the country held them in reverence as places consecrated by the presence of an Inca."

Thus to make an object of unrestrained affection out of what would seem an image of the most repulsive tyranny, is something of the same process which we note in their wonderful cultivation of a cheerless soil. Out of a desert they made a paradise. Canals and aqueducts, nobly executed, fertilized the sterile ground; hills, too precipitous and stony to be tilled, were cut and hewn into terraces, and covered deep with earth that the husbandman might not toil in vain; everywhere richness replaced barrenness; and as little amid the everlasting winter on the heights of the Cordilleras, as in the freshness of perpetual spring on the table-lands below, did this extraordinary people seem to have spared their patient and discriminating labor. We take Mr. Prescott's account of their great roads and posts. Even their wonderful proficiency in architecture yields to the interest of these:

"The most considerable were the two which extended from Quito to Cuzco, and again diverging from the capital, continued in a southern direction toward Chili.

"One of these roads passed over the grand plateau, and the other along the lowlands on the borders of the ocean. The former was much the more difficult achievement, from the character of the country. It was conducted over pathless sierras buried in snow; galleries were cut four leagues through the living rocks; rivers were crossed by means of bridges that swung suspended in the air; precipices were scaled by stairways hewn out of the native beds; ravines of hideous depth were filled up with solid masonry; in short, all the difficulties that beset a wild and mountainous region, and which might appal the most courageous engineer of modern times, were encountered and successfully overcome. The length of the road, of which scattered fragments only remain, is variously estimated from fifteen hundred to two thousand miles; and stone pillars, in the manner of European milestones, were erected at stated intervals of somewhat more than a league all along the route. Its breadth scarcely exceeded twenty feet. It was built of heavy flags of freestone, and in some parts, at least, covered with a bituminous cement, which time has made harder than the stone itself. In some places where the ravines had been filled up with masonry, the mountain torrents wearing on it for ages, have gradually eaten away through the base, and left the superincumbent mass—such is the cohesion of the materials—still spanning the valley like an arch."

"Over some of the boldest streams it was necessary to construct suspension bridges, as they are termed, made of the tough fibres of the *maguery*, or of the osier of the country, which has an extraordinary degree of tenacity and strength. The osiers were woven into cables of the thickness of a man's body. The huge ropes, then stretched across the water, were conducted through rings or holes cut in immense buttresses of stone raised on the opposite banks of the river, and there secured to heavy pieces of timber. Several of these enormous cables bound together, formed a bridge, which, covered with planks, well secured and defended by a railing of the same osier materials on the sides, afforded a safe passage for the traveller. The length of this aerial bridge, sometimes exceeding two hundred feet, caused it, confined as it was only at the extremities, to dip with an alarming inclination towards the centre, while the motion given to it by the passenger occasioned an oscillation still more frightful, as his eye wandered over the dark abyss of waters that foamed and tumbled many a fathom beneath. Yet these light and fragile fabrics were crossed without fear by the Peruvians, and are still retained by the Spaniards over those streams which, from the depth or impetuosity of the current, would seem impracticable for the usual modes of conveyance."

"The system of communication through their dominions was still further improved by the Peruvian sovereigns, by the introduction of posts, in the same manner as was done by the Aztecs. The Peruvian posts, however, established on all the great routes that conducted to the capital, were on a much more extended plan than those in Mexico. All along these routes small buildings were erected, at the distance of less than five miles asunder, in each of which a number of runners or *chasquis*, as they were called, were stationed, to carry forward the despatches of government. These despatches were either verbal or conveyed by means of *quipus*, and sometimes accompanied by a thread of crimson fringed worn round the temples of the Inca, which was regarded with the same implicit deference as the signet ring of an oriental despot.

"The *chasquis* were dressed in a peculiar livery, intimating their profession. They were all trained to the employment, and selected for their speed and fidelity. As the distance each courier had to perform was small, and as he had ample time to refresh himself at the stations, they ran over the ground with great swiftness, and messages were carried through the whole extent of the long routes at the rate of a hundred and fifty miles a day. The office of the *chasquis* was not limited to carrying despatches. They frequently brought various articles for the use of the court; and in this way fish from the distant ocean, fruits, game, and different commodities from the hot regions on the coast, were taken to the capital in good condition, and served fresh at the royal table. It is remarkable that this important institution should have been known to both the Mexicans and Peruvians without any correspondence with one another; and that it should have been found among two barbarian nations of the New World, long before it was introduced among the civilized nations of Europe.

"By these wise contrivances of the Incas, the most distant parts of the long-extended empire of Peru were brought into intimate relations with each other. And while the capitals of Christendom, but a few hundred miles apart, remained as far asunder as if seas had rolled between them, the great capitals Cuzco and Quito were placed by the high-roads of the Incas in immediate correspondence. Intelligence from the numerous provinces was transmitted on the wings of the wind to the Peruvian metropolis, the great focus to which all the lines of communication converged. Not an insurrectionary movement could occur, not an invasion of the remotest frontier, before the tidings were conveyed to the capital, and the imperial armies were on their march across the magnificent roads of the country to suppress it. So admirably was the machinery contrived by the American despots for maintaining tranquillity throughout their dominions! It may remind us of the similar institutions of ancient Rome, when, under the Cæsars, she was mistress of half the world."

Mr. Prescott's essay embraces, in like manner, accounts of their religion and military tactics, their agriculture and modes of cultivation, their legal administration and provisions for justice, their dramatic exhibitions, and other various details of their civilization and prosperity; but we cannot dwell longer on the attractive theme.

We may possibly speak, at a future day, of the most strictly historical part of Mr. Prescott's labors. We shall best satisfy the readers' curiosity at present, by exhibiting, in a few striking extracts, the tone and spirit of the narrative. It is life-like all ways; the dramatic collisions of character are fully exhibited; and the deeper scenes of the tragedy lose nothing in intensity and power:

PIZARRO'S FIRST EXPERIENCE OF PERU.

"On the departure of his vessels Pizarro marched into the interior, in the hope of finding the pleasant champagne country which had been promised him by the natives. But at every step the forest seemed to grow denser and darker, and the trees towered to a height such as he had never seen, even in these fruitful regions, where nature works on so gigantic a scale. Hill continued to rise above hill, as he advanced, rolling onward, as it were, by successive waves, to join that colossal barrier of the Andes, whose frosty sides, far away above the clouds, spread out like a curtain of burnished silver, that seemed to connect the heavens with the earth.

"On crossing these woody eminences, the storm adventurers would plunge into ravines of frightful depth, where the exhalations of a humid soil steamed up amidst the incense of sweet-scented flowers, which shone through the deep glooms in every conceivable variety of color. Birds, especially of the parrot tribe, mocked this fantastic variety of nature with tints as brilliant as those of the vegetable world. Monkeys chattered in crowds above their heads, and made grimaces like fiendish spirits of these solitudes; while hideous reptiles, engendered in the slimy depths of the pools, gathered round the footsteps of the wanderers. Here was seen the gigantic boa, coiling his unwieldy folds above the trees, so as hardly to be distinguished from their trunks, till he was ready to dart upon his prey; and alligators lay basking on the borders of the streams, or, gliding under the waters, seized their incautious victim before he was aware of their approach. Many of the Spaniards perished miserably in this way, and others were waylaid by the natives, who kept a jealous eye on their movements, and availed themselves of every opportunity to take them at advantage. Fourteen of Pizarro's men were cut off at once in a canoe which had stranded on the bank of a stream.

"Famine came in addition to other troubles, and it was with difficulty that they found the means of sustaining life on the scanty fare of the forest—occasionally the potato, as it grew without cultivation, or the wild cecoc-nut, or, on the shore, the salt and bitter fruit of the mangrove; though the shore was less tolerable than the forest, from the swarms of mosquitoes which compelled the wretched adventurers to bury their bodies up to their very faces in the sand. In this extremity of suffering they thought only of return; and all schemes of avarice and ambition—except with Pizarro and a few dauntless spirits—were exchanged for the one craving desire to return to Panama."

When this desire took more resolved shape, Pizarro met it by a resolve yet more decisive: "Drawing his sword, he traced a line with it on the sand from east to west. Then turning towards the south, 'Friends and comrades!' he said, 'on that side are toil, hunger, nakedness, the dreaching storm, desertion and death; on this side, ease and pleasure. There lies Peru with its riches; here, Panama and its poverty. Choose, each man, what best becomes a brave Castilian. For my part, I go to the south.' So saying he stepped across the line. He was followed by the brave pilot Ruiz, next by Pedro de Candia, a cavalier, born, as his name imports, in one of the isles of Greece. Eleven others successfully crossed the line, thus intimating their willingness to abide the fortunes of their leader for good or evil."

One of the treacherous massacres by Pizarro is thus vividly described:

"Pizarro saw that the hour had come. He waved a white scarf in the air, the appointed signal. The fatal gun was fired from the fortresses. Then springing into the square, the Spanish captain and his followers shouted the old war-cry of 'St. Jago and at them!' It was answered by the battle cry of every Spaniard in the city, as rushing from the avenues of the great halls in which they were concealed, they poured into the plaza, horse and foot, each in his own dark cloak, and threw themselves into the midst of the Indian crowd. The latter taken by surprise, stunned by the report of artillery and muskets, the echoes of which reverberated like thunder from the surrounding buildings, and blinded by the smoke which rolled in sulphurous volumes along the square, were seized with a panic. They knew not whither to fly for refuge from the coming ruin. Nobles and commoners—all were trampled down under the fierce charge of the cavalry, who dealt their blows right and left, without sparing; while their swords, flashing through the thick gloom, carried dismay into the hearts of the wretched natives, who now, for the first time, saw the horse and the rider in all their terrors. They made no resistance—as, indeed, they had no weapons with which to make it. Every avenue to escape was closed, for the entrance to the square was choked up with the dead bodies of men who had perished in vain efforts to fly; and such was the agony of the survivors under the terrible pressure of their assailants, that a large body of Indians, by their convulsive struggles burst through the wall of stone and dry clay which formed part of the boundary of the plaza! It fell, leaving an opening of more than a hundred paces, through which multitudes now found their way into the country, still hotly pursued by the cavalry, who, looting the fallen rubbish, hung on the rear of the fugitives, striking them down all directions."

"Meanwhile the fight, or rather massacre, continued hot around the Inca, whose person was the great object of the assault. His faithful nobles, rallying about him, threw themselves in the way of the assailants, and strove, by tearing them from their saddles, or, at least, by offering their own bosoms as a mark for their vengeance, to shield their beloved master. It is said, by some authorities, that they carried weapons concealed under their clothes. If so, it availed them little, as it is not pretended that they used them. But the most timid animal will defend itself when at bay. That they did not so in the present instance is proof that they had no weapons to use. Yet they still continued to force back the cavaliers, clinging to their horses with dying grasp, and, as one was cut down, another taking the place of his fallen comrade with a loyalty truly affecting."

"The Indian monarch stunned and bewildered, saw his faithful subjects falling around him without hardly comprehending his situation. The litter on which he rode, heaved to and fro, as the mighty press awayed backwards and forwards; and he gazed on the overwhelming ruin, like some forlorn mariner, who, tossed about in his bark by the furious elements, sees the lightning flash and hears the thunder bursting around him, with the consciousness that he can do nothing to avert his fate. At length, weary with the work of destruction, the Spaniards, as the shades of evening grew deeper, felt afraid that the royal prize might, after all, elude them; and some of the cavaliers made a desperate attempt to end the affray at once by taking Atahualpa's life. But Pizarro who was nearest his person, called out with stentorian voice, 'Let no one, who values his life, strike at the Inca!' and, stretching out his arm to shield him, he received a wound on his hand from one of his own men—the only wound received by a Spaniard in the action."

"The struggle now became fiercer than ever round the royal litter. It recoiled more and more, and at length several of the nobles who supported it having been slain, it was overturned, and the Indian prince would have come with violence to the ground, had not his fall been broken by the efforts of Pizarro and some other of the cavaliers who caught him in their arms. The imperial Inca was instantly snatched from his temples by a soldier named Estete, and the unhappy monarch, strongly secured, was removed to a neighboring building, where he was carefully guarded."

In delineation of the character of the hero of the conquest, it seems to us that great judgement is shown. Neither the lights nor the shades are too broadly or deeply drawn. What allied him to Cortez, and what widely separates them, in his patient endurance, his incredible perseverance, his freedom from bigotry, his insatiable avarice, his reckless perfidy, and his indomitable cruelty, is patiently and well set forth. We have neither a perfect hero, nor an absolute monster, but undoubtedly a most extraordinary man. He is at the same time one of those men, of whose ignorance of the intellectual arts, and utter inability to read or to write, we can bear without regret or surprise.