

The age of the *Conquista*, which comprises the end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth century, indicates a remarkable concurrence of great events in the political and social life of the nations of Europe. In the same month in which Hernan Cortez, after the battle of Otumba, advanced upon Mexico, with the view of besieging it, Martin Luther burned the pope's bull at Wittenberg, and laid the foundation of the Reformation, which promised to the human mind both freedom and progress on paths which had hitherto been almost wholly untrodden.* Still earlier, the noblest forms of ancient Hellenic art, the Laocoon, the Torso, the Apollo de Belvidere, and the Medicean Venus, had been resuscitated, as it were, from the tombs in which they had so long been buried. There flourished in Italy, Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, and Raphael; and in Germany, Holbein and Albert Durer. The Copernican system of the universe was discovered, if not made generally known, in the year in which Columbus died, and fourteen years after the discovery of the New Continent.

The importance of this discovery, and of the first colonization of Europeans, involves a consideration of other fields of inquiry besides those to which these pages are devoted, and closely bears upon the intellectual and moral influences exercised on the improvement of the social condition of mankind by the sudden enlargement of the accumulated mass of new ideas. We would simply draw attention to the fact that,

the mountainous parts of Quito, Peru, and Chili. These herds constituted the riches of the nations who were settled there, and were engaged in the cultivation of the soil; in the Cordilleras of South America there were no "pastoral nations," and "pastoral life" was not known. What are the "tame deer," near the Punta de St. Helena, which are mentioned in Herrera, Dec. ii., lib. x., cap. 6 (t. i., p. 471, ed. Amberes, 1728)? These deer are said to have given milk and cheese, "*ciervos que dan leche y queso y se crian en casa!*" From what source is this notice taken? It can not have arisen from a confusion with the llamas (having neither horns nor antlers) of the cold mountainous region, of which Garcilaso affirms that in Peru, and especially on the plateau of Callao, they were used for plowing. (*Comment reales*, Part i., lib. v., cap. 2, p. 133. Compare, also, Pedro de Cieça de Leon, *Chronica del Peru*, Sevilla, 1553, cap. 110, p. 264.) This employment of llamas appears, however, to have been a rare exception, and a merely local custom. In general, the American races were remarkable for their deficiency of domesticated animals, and this had a profound influence on family life.

* On the hope which Luther, in the execution of his great and free-minded work, placed especially on the younger generation, the youth of Germany, see the remarkable expressions in a letter written in June, 1518. (Neander, *De Vicelio*, p. 7.)