

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE LEGENDS.

## FIRST TABLE.

*Of the Admiral*

N° 1. The admiral Don Cristoval Colon, a Genoese by birth, offered to their Catholic Majesties of glorious memory to discover the islands and mainland of the Indies,<sup>1</sup> by the west, provided they gave him for this purpose a sufficient *fleet* and favor;<sup>2</sup> and having it, and having fitted out three caravels in the year 1492, he proceeded to discover them, and from that time on many other persons have continued the said discovery, as is shown by the present description.

N° 2. In the island Española there is much virgin gold and *very fine lapis-lazuli* [*blue copper ore*?] and much sugar and cassia fistula, and an infinite number of cattle<sup>3</sup> of all kinds.<sup>4</sup> *The swine of this island they give to the sick, as here in our parts they give mutton.* This said island contains many harbors,<sup>5</sup> and *very good ones*, and the chief one of them is the city of Santo Domingo, which is a very good city and of much trade, and all the others are places built and settled by the Spaniards; and in the island of Cuba and of San Juan, and in all the other islands, and on the mainland virgin gold is found;<sup>6</sup> and in the city of Santo Domingo his Majesty has his royal chancery, and in all the other towns<sup>7</sup> and provinces governors *and rulers* who govern *and rule* them<sup>8</sup> with much justice; and every day are discovered<sup>9</sup> new lands and provinces, very rich, by means of which our Holy Catholic Faith is, and will be, much increased, and these kingdoms of Castile have become great with much *glorious fame and riches*.

N° 3. This mainland which the Spaniards named New Spain, the most illustrious gentleman, Don Fernando Cortez, marquis del Valle de Guaxacon, conquered. There are, in this land provinces and cities innumerable: the chief of them is the city of Mexico,<sup>10</sup> which contains more than fifty thousand inhabitants; it is in a salt lake which extends over forty leagues. There is in the said city, and in all the other provinces, much gold, virgin silver, and all kinds of precious stones; and there is produced in the said land and provinces much very good silk, and cotton, alum, orchil, dyewood, cochineal, and saffron, and sugar,<sup>11</sup> of all the aforesaid great quantities, with which many ships come loaded to these kingdoms of Spain.<sup>12</sup> The natives of this land are very expert in all that relates to trade; instead of coins, they make use of certain kernels, split in halves, which they call cacao, or cacanghnate, a barbarous expression.<sup>13</sup> They have much wheat and barley, and many other grains, and vines, and many fruits of different kinds. It is a land of many animals, deer, mountain boars, lions, leopards, tigers, and much other game, both birds and land animals. It is a people<sup>14</sup> very skilful in moulding any object after nature, and in painting pictures. The women usually adorn themselves with precious stones and valuable pearls. These Indians use a certain kind of paper, on which they draw what they wish to express with figures [pictures] instead of letters. They never had peace among themselves; on the contrary, some persecuted others in continuous fights in which the prisoners on either side were sacrificed by their enemies to their gods, and their dead bodies were given to the army, as public banquets. They were idolaters, and adored whatever took their fancy; they were very fond of eating human flesh, whereas now they have laid aside these fierce and cruel customs, and have clad themselves in Jesus Christ, believing heartily in our holy evangelical faith,<sup>15</sup> and obeying our most holy mother<sup>16</sup> church and its most holy precepts.

1 the western islands and mainland of the Indies.

2 if they provided him sufficiently with the things needful to him.

3 and flocks.

4 [In the Latin version the last clause of this sentence comes first.]

5 and ports.

6 all these places are filled with many inhabitants.

7 cities and islands.

8 rather by the reason and integrity of the laws than by arbitrary will.

9 and conquered.

10 is called Mexico by the name of the Indians.

11 or juice of the cane.

12 to Seville of Andalusia.

13 by the barbarous Indian name.

14 very learned and.

15 and the religion of the Christians.

16 orthodox Catholic.