

Z A C

By gradual advances, at seasonable junctures, they might have introduced such amendments, as would at this day have established a sound and well fortified political frame : but through their utter neglect of education, the ancient assemblies consisted of plain, illiterate husbandmen, whose views seldom extended farther than to the regulation of highways, the destruction of wolves, wild cats, and foxes, and the advancement of the other little interests of the particular counties which they were chosen to represent.



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ZACATECAS, a province in New Spain, bounded by New Biscay on the north ; by Panuco on the east ; Mechoacan, Guadalajara, and Chiametlan, on the south ; and by part of Chiametlan and Culiacan on the west. It is well inhabited, and abounds with large villages. Part of it lies in the temperate, and part in the torrid zone ; it is about a hundred leagues in length, and forty-five in breadth. The western part of it is an arid tract, and would not be inhabited, were it not for the mines, which are reckoned the richest in America ; but the eastern part abounds with corn, and fruits of various kinds, and its forests are full of deer.

ZACETACAS, the capital of the above province, situated under the tropic of Cancer, 40 leagues north of Guadalajara, and 80 north-west of Mexico. Its garrison consists of a thousand