

served only to develop and direct the genius of the Indian. The mountain sides, carefully terraced, not only yielded abundant harvests, but furnished all that rich variety of products which only tropical heights produce; and the parched plains, moistened by a thousand tiny rivulets skilfully stolen from the parent stream, were soon clothed with a verdure that repaid in a hundred fold all that was expended upon them.

No sooner had they secured the stability of their institutions at home, and gathered strength sufficient to warrant an aggressive policy, than the Incas entered upon a career of conquest that extended their boundaries indefinitely on the east of the mountains, along the coast from the equator to the southern extremity of Chili, and terminated only with the arrival of the Spaniards. This almost uninterrupted series of military triumphs, extending over several centuries, was remarkable, both for its religious character and its lack of bloodshed. As the Mohammedan presented his Koran, and the crusader offered the cross before the sword, so the Inca, marching forth under the ensign of the rainbow, demanded homage in the name of his paternal deity and allegiance to this heavenly banner. To this end he addressed his barbarous adversaries with all the tact of a diplomatist, but milder measures failing, the sword did its work, and by occasionally making a terrible example of some obdurate community, the peaceful possession of many petty kingdoms was obtained. Yet even here outrage was forbidden and all needless severity avoided, the conqueror declaring "We must spare our enemies or it will be our loss, since they and all that belongs to them must soon be ours." A policy it has been remarked, very similar to that claimed for the Romans by Livy, who says that "his countrymen gained more by their clemency for the vanquished than by their victories."

But to gain glory on the battle field has been to many a nation more advanced than the ancient Peruvians a task less difficult than to convert the sullen subjects of its success into contented and useful members of the body politic. In this, however, the Incas were peculiarly successful. They first established in every province the worship of the sun; demanding neither the suppression of the original worship nor the destruction of the native gods, but simply requiring that these deities should share the fallen fortunes of their people and henceforth hold a

subordinate position. Every conquered chief and a number of the principal personages in his kingdom, with their families, were immediately transported to the capital of the empire. Here they learned the customs of the court, the plan of government, saw something of the wealth and prosperity of the country, were shewn the advantages that their new relations would confer upon them, and went home, leaving their eldest sons as hostages for a time, satisfied at least of the hopelessness of resisting the mighty power under which they had fallen. Were this experience insufficient to uproot any lingering idea of independence, or upon a spirit of disaffection appearing in any province, the Incas resorted to a plan which for an age when might was considered right and the value set upon human life so trifling, was remarkable. This scheme consisted in removing from their homes to the new territory a few thousand citizens of undoubted loyalty, and filling their places with an equal number of the malcontents; thus weakening the power of the latter, and at the same time giving them the advantage of vigilant and exemplary neighbours. As the empire enlarged, a new difficulty, in some cases to-day an unsolved problem, appeared to impede the progress of Peruvian civilization. This was the plurality of language of its people. Throughout the vast dominion each little state possessed a speech peculiar to itself; each petty tribe boasted a dialect all its own. The government proposed the bold and original expedient of a universal language; and so thoroughly was the purpose effected that the Spaniards found, besides the local dialects, a common medium of communication in the beautiful speech of the Inca's court which through the agency of government instructors was readily used by even the lowest classes of the people. The beneficent designs of the ruling power upon the barbarians across its ever-moving frontier, as well as the enterprise that sought the welfare of its own people, led to the establishment of one of the most gigantic systems of road-building that existed in these early times. Like his fellows in the East the Peruvian knew not of lands beyond the sea; he never dreamed that beyond the circling bound of his horizon men lived and died with pain and passions like his own; and hence with pardonable pride he was wont to say, "The Inca rules four quarters of the world." To these four quarters from Cuzco as a centre radiated the great highways of the king-