

facts have abundantly shewn. Of the Mexicans who have had an opportunity of engaging in the pursuits of learning, which is but a small number, as the greatest part of the people are always employed in the public or private works, good mathematicians and architects have been known.

The minds of the Mexicans are affected by the same variety of passions with those of other nations, but not in an equal degree. They seldom exhibit those transports of anger, or those frenzies of love, which are so common in other countries. They are slow but very steady, and exhibit great proofs of perseverance in works which require time and long attention.

Generosity and perfect disinterestedness are the principal features of their character. Gold with the Mexicans has not that value which it enjoys elsewhere. They give without reluctance what has cost them the utmost labour to acquire.

*Of the Marriages and Funeral Rites of the Mexicans.*

When a son arrives at the age capable of bearing the charges of the marriage state, a suitable wife is singled out for him, but before the union can be concluded on, the diviners are consulted, and according to their predictions, the match is abandoned or pursued. If they predict happiness to the couple, the young girl is demanded of her parents by certain women styled solicitors, who are among the most respectable amongst the kindred of the youth. The first time that these women go to the house of the damsel, is at midnight, carrying with them presents, and demanding her in the most humble and respectful terms. The first demand is always refused. The second is made, with various arguments, as to the rank and fortune of the youth, to which the parents of the young woman gives a more favourable answer. The female solicitors return no