

BOOK II. huallpa at Caxamarca. A few days afterwards, news arrived of the landing of the Spaniards<sup>1</sup>.

Aboriginal

America.

Organisa-  
tion of  
the Inca  
dominion.

The organisation of the Inca dominion is best understood by considering it as a group of districts which had been added in rapid succession to the original district of Cuzco. When middle Peru, the upper valley of the Huillcamayu, and the basin of Lake Titicaca, were successively conquered, the administrative arrangements of the Cuzco district were naturally reproduced in each of these new provinces: and these arrangements were of an extremely simple nature. In each pueblo of the original Inca district—and there was one in every considerable valley—the local chief or curaca had usually retained his former position, and some part of the land, all of which was cultivated by the common labour of the peasantry, together with a certain number of llamas, was set apart for his use. Other lands and herds were appropriated to the Ceapac-Inca and to the huacas of the Inca people, the chief among these being the Sun. The produce of these appropriations was conveyed to Cuzco, and deposited in store-houses, the weaving of the llama-hair into cloth providing continuous occupation for the women of the Inca-tampu and the Ceoricancha: and food and cloth thus accumulated were partly employed in sacrifices—the cloth being burned—and partly served as stores always in readiness for military expeditions. A similar distribution of land and llamas was made in each conquered district. An Inca-tampu, together with a Ceoricancha, was erected in some convenient central spot to which the produce of the lands of the Ceapac-Inca and the Sun was regularly brought from the surrounding pueblos: and this establishment served as an administrative and military centre. Such stations were placed at irregular distances in a continuous line along the sierra from Quito in the north to Paria, far beyond Lake Titicaca, in the south: but there were none, or none in a completely organised

<sup>1</sup> Salcamayhua, *Relacion*, pp. 308-324.