

## T L A

populous country in all America. And this is partly ascribed to its having been originally an ally to Cortez, in the conquest of Mexico, who obtained a grant of it from the Emperor Charles VI. also King of Spain, by which it is still exempt from any service or duty whatsoever to that Crown, only paying the King of Spain a handful of maize for each head, as an acknowledgment; which inconsiderable parcels were said, upwards of 50 years ago, to make up 13,000 bushels; for it produces so much of that Indian corn, that hence it has had the name of Tlascala, *i. e.* the land of bread. By this means the towns and villages swarm with Indians, quite a different people from their neighbours, who have become entirely stupid, through the long continuance of the slavery and oppression to which they have been subjected. Whereas these have all the fire and spirit natural to a free people; speak the Spanish tongue, and hardly any other; being perfectly reconciled to the Spanish customs, and grateful for the countenance shewn them.

This province was anciently a monarchy, till civil wars arising among the inhabitants, they formed themselves into an aristocracy of many Princes, in order to get rid of one. They divided their towns into different districts, each of which nominated one of their chiefs to reside in the court of Tlascala, where they formed a senate, whose resolutions were a law to the whole. Under this form of government, they maintained themselves a long while against the Kings of Mexico, and continued in it till the reception of the Spaniards under Cortez.

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