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viceroy, forbade with whimsical perversity the study of "Derechos de gente" — the law of nations. Thus the deliberate policy of the government was to keep the Americans ignorant in order the more easily to enslave them : for the same reason caste prejudices were encouraged. A partly coloured man looked down upon a wholly coloured man, and a white man looked with the most serene contempt on both. The Spaniard who came over to make his fortune by sitting in the antechamber of a Spanish grandee till the incumbent of some office died and left his place for sale, looked down upon the Spaniard as white as himself, who, having had the misfortune to be born in the colony, had become "criollo."

Amidst all this cruelty, injustice, poverty, misery, murder, ignorance, superstition, there is but one sight upon which the eye can rest with satisfaction. It is not upon great viceroys, living in more than regal splendour, with body-guards, and slaves, and crowds of obedient vassals ; not upon the great fathers of the church, honestly as many of them did their duty ; not on the ignoble crowd of office-bearers and office-seekers ; not on the tyrants over slaves in the far-off mines of the Sierra Madre or Potosi ; but on the missionaries, toiling on with brave hearts in daily and deadly peril among the heathen.