

found the mestizos, with their varieties the zambos, mulattos, terzerons and quadroons. Add to all these the numerous foreigners, especially French and German, and you have the body politic, which throughout, like the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's image, is of elements that refuse to assimilate and combine, outwardly mixed but not mingled.

The Mexican religion is well symbolized by the Teocalli, to which we have already referred. The elevated summit-platform once sacred to the Aztec deities, now bears aloft a chapel to the virgin. Another race has succeeded it and supplanted the Aztec; so another religion, with its new deities, saints and sacrifices, has reared its very shrine on the temple platform of a more ancient superstition. Yet down beneath the corrupt Romanism of Mexico, we find the old relics of an abandoned faith.

That ancient Aztec religion was a strange mixture of countless deities and deified passions, and cannibal cruelties. That huge round block of red porphyry in the museum of the City of Mexico, once the capstone of the great pyramidal temple, was once the bloodiest stone of sacrifice known on earth. Its side bears graven records of horrible cruelties, and it is said that every year twenty thousand victims were slaughtered upon it. The papal religion has been forced upon the people, but it has scarcely lifted them above the level of these old rites and superstitions. To keep them down and keep them under, it was necessary to leave them in that ignorance which is the mother of superstition and to cater to their vices. Hence to-day seven-eighths of the population cannot read or write. Marriage has sunk into concubinage. The Bible is almost an unknown book, and the name of Jesus is inseparable from that of Jesuit. With a drunken and dissolute priesthood for teachers and exemplars, with the very churches and convents identified with extortion and licentiousness, the drift of society has been toward atheism on the one hand and the indifference of religious apathy on the other: while the more abject poor and oppressed lower classes, pulverized beneath the millstone of social tyranny and slavery, are only waiting for opportunity to feed their resentment. The only power that can remould such a population is the pure gospel of Christ. Notwithstanding the sway of a nominal Christianity, Mexico is as much a field for Protestant missions as China or Africa.

This population of over ten millions, with a score of cities having