

fifteenth, the Incas of Peru conquered the country, established themselves at Quito, and reigned undisturbed for forty years. Then came the discovery of America by Columbus and the Spanish occupation.

"The Spanish Sovereigns, at the news of the wonderful discovery, were fully impressed with their great mission. They sent in every ship bishops, priests and religious Orders, who evangelized by degrees the whole country; so that civilization and religion went hand in hand.The advice given by Columbus was: 'Your Highness should permit no one to settle in South America who is not a good Christian, for this enterprise has no other object than the glory of God and the good of His Church'."

The earlier history of European colonization and the nature of the complex causes which led to the struggle for self-government are known to most of our readers. What happened in the British Colonies in the northern half of the New World, was to be enacted in the southern portion as well. One by one these colonies were to be torn from their mother country. The first actor in the drama was Bolivar. Setting foot in Venezuela in 1810, he proclaimed the independence of the people and formed a Republic composed of the three States of Venezuela, New Granada and Ecuador under the name of "Colombia." Defeated at the outset and banished the country he returned in 1817, and at the end of a few years had driven the original rulers from Colombian soil. Thereupon he was hailed as the "Liberator" of his people. But though he had freed this part of South America from a distasteful yoke, the tyranny of the Revolution, which he was unable to stem, had replaced it, and it finally wrought his own ruin. "He died," says the author already quoted, "literally of a broken heart on December 17, 1830, being only forty-seven years of age. The total dismemberment of Colombia followed, and each State set up for itself and became an independent Republic. One of these was Ecuador. Torn to pieces by