

cessfully resisted the innovations of Montezuma,—the Republic of Tlascala. Xicolencatt at this time presided over it, an old man, and nearly blind, but full of fire and wise in counsel. To all Cortés's propositions of friendship, he replied by tokens of avowed hostilities.

Various skirmishes, and several hard fought battles ensued before Cortés entered the city of Tlascala as its conqueror. His final triumph was one of the most important events in the history of the conquest;—without it, Cortés could never have met with the success he did. A long and deadly hatred existed between the Tlascalans and the Aztecs, and of this he availed himself to the utmost, and easily engaged the now humbled chiefs to enter into an alliance that had for its object the destruction of their greatest enemies. After remaining three weeks in Tlascala, and receiving much kindness and hospitality from its inhabitants, Cortés, with a large body of Tlascalan allies, once more set out for Mexico.

Six leagues from Tlascala, is situated the Indian City of Cholula, a populous and wealthy city—one of the many dependencies of the Capital. The reception of the Spaniards by the inhabitants was apparently frank and hospitable;—their professions of friendship were relied on but too securely. Cortés had well nigh paid dearly for his temerity. The Spaniards had not been many days resident in the city before this show of kindness visibly decreased; and, through the active and intelligent observation of Marina, the young interpreter, a conspiracy was discovered, to surprise and cut off the whole Spanish force. It was intended to reserve some of the prisoners for sacrifice, and send the rest in chains to Montezuma. Cortés no sooner possessed himself of these facts, than he resolved to make such an example of the guilty parties as would strike terror into the whole nation, and manifest, at once, their own strength and resolution. He informed the Chief of the Council of his intention of leaving the city on the following morning—but, before his departure, requested the attendance of the principal citizens. When all were assembled in the large square where his troops were quartered, Cortés at once openly accused them of the treacherous plot just discovered. Astonished at the sudden accusation, the Cholulians could find