

sufficient for conversion. The missionaries who accompanied the expeditions were chiefly Dominican friars, many of them humble and devoted men who worked quietly and zealously amongst the natives, and tried in every way in their power to mitigate the cruelty of the Spanish conquerors. The Spaniard might be eager for the conversion of the native, but he was still more eager to win wealth from him and to force him to work on the land of which he had been forcibly deprived. The sufferings of the natives, their death by thousands under these cruel conditions, stirred the indignation of the missionaries. Las Casas, an eminent Dominican, who spent his whole life in the service of the South American Indians, by his remonstrances and representations at the Spanish Court succeeded in having it pronounced illegal to make slaves of the Indians, with the exception of those taken captive in an unrighteous war. He spared no pains to improve their condition, crossing the ocean twelve times and travelling to every part of the newly-discovered countries, opposing in season and out of season the rapacity and cruelty of the Spanish colonists. But to