

these old monasteries furnished safe and secret sepulcher for the victims of the Inquisition.

Corruption was the fruit of this evil supremacy. Butler, in "Mexico in Transition," one of the best books on Mexico, quotes the testimony of the Abbé Emanuel Domenech, chaplain of the French expeditionary force, who published in Paris in 1867 a report of a tour of observation he was required to make before leaving Mexico, to investigate the rumors of the low moral and religious condition of the clergy and Church of Rome in Mexico. The report is entitled "Mexico as it is, the Truth Respecting its Climate, its Inhabitants, and its Government." The abbé was a prominent clergyman of the Romish Church of France. His report is one of the most damaging revelations to be found anywhere of the life nourished by the Church of Rome in lands completely under her control.

"Mexican faith is a dead faith. The abuse of external ceremonies, the facility of reconciling the devil with God, the absence of internal exercises of piety, *have killed the faith* in Mexico. It is in vain to seek good fruit from the worthless tree, which makes Mexican religion a singular assemblage of heartless devotion, shameful ignorance, insane superstition, and hideous vice. . . . The idolatrous character of Mexican Catholicism is a fact well known to all travelers. The worship of saints and madonnas so absorbs the devotion of the people that little time is left to think about God. Religious ceremonies are performed with a most lamentable indifference and want of decorum. . . . One day I was present at an Indian dance, celebrated in honor of the patron saint of the village. Twenty-four boys and girls were dancing in the church, in the presence of the priest. An Indian, with his face concealed under a mask of an imaginary divinity resembling the devil, with horns and claws, was directing the figures of the dance, which reminded me of that of the Redskins! I remarked to the priest, who for all that was an excellent priest, that it was very incongruous to permit such a frolic in a church.

"The old customs," he replied, "are respectable; it is well to preserve them, only taking care that they do not degenerate into orgies." . . .

"During holy week I have seen processions of three thousand persons stripped and covered only with sackcloth, so coarse as to show that the individual had not even a shirt. The different phases of the passion of Christ were represented by groups of painted statues large as life, and by men and women placed upon stages, borne on the shoulders of hundreds of Indians. The bearers, bending under the weight of their burden, would go, from time to time, to refresh themselves at the liquor shops, leaving in the middle of the streets the groups representing the Passion. Jews and Romans, decked with helmets of tin plate, breast-plates of pasteboard, and breeches embroidered with silver, made a part of the procession."

The Church controlled marriage, and fixed the fee so high as to force the mass of the people into concubinage. Formal marriage was beyond their means. She controlled education, and was happy to ensure the permanent ignorance of the people. She controlled baptism and burial; held the keys of life and of death, and by all the curses of the life that now is and of the world to come drove into darkness those whom she should have led into light. At the outset she substituted for the living Christ an image