

In answer to the question, "What is the state of the Country in General?" the answer is, "The Commodities of Ireland consist chiefly in Cattle; the Air is mild, but moist and foggy; the Soil is not very proper for Corn, it being always poor and never ripens to perfection. The Pasture is rich in some, and but indifferent in other Places, but altogether it is a fine Country, and capable of Improvements; and the people are free from being annoyed by venomous Creatures, since none ever harbour or breed there."

"What Character do the Natives of Ireland bear?"

"*Ans.* A certain Author gives the following description of them—'The Irish' (says he) 'are a strong and bold People, martial and prodigal in War, nimble, stout, and hearty of Heart; careless of Life, but greedy of Glory; courteous to Strangers, constant in Love, light of Belief, impatient of Injury, given to Lasciviousness, and in Enmity implacable.' But as most Writers treat partially in their Characters of Countries, according as they stand affected towards them, there is no relying on the bare Report of a Single Author in such Cases, especially when he conceals his Name." Mr. Cowley continues: "The greatest Part of the Natives are *Roman* Catholics, but as the Laws have been put in Execution for establishing the Church of England in that Kingdom (Ireland) it has already, and will in Time, lessen the Number of Papists, and increase that of the Protestants." Not to mention the looseness of the composition in the last quotation, it may simply be remarked in passing that the obliquity of moral perception exemplified in the belief of our geographer regarding the possibility of making Act of Parliament Protestants, must have been at least partially removed by the events of the years almost immediate-

ly succeeding the publication of his volume.

Omitting for the present any further reference to Old World lands, let us see what was taught in 1742 about the countries on this side of the Atlantic.

Says the Geographer to His Gracious Majesty George II.: "North America is divided into four capital parts, viz.: 1. New Spain; 2. New Mexico; 3. Florida; and 4. Canada." It is not easy to see why a division should be called *New Mexico*; but further on we learn the reason to be that it was discovered after Old Mexico, further south. Old Mexico then, or Mexico proper, as we would say, was merely an "audier.:" of New Spain, the other "audiences" being Guadalaxara and Guatimala.

Rich, no doubt, as the City of Mexico was, and magnificent with barbaric splendour, the description given of it must have made a heavy demand upon the credulity of the 1742 schoolmaster: "Mexico is the Capital City of all America; it was formerly the residence of the Mexican kings, the last of whom was Montezuma. In his Time this place had 80,000 Houses built very grand after the American Taste; the Royal Palace had twenty Gates; there was another Palace where the King kept an Aviary of Birds; another for wild Createres and Birds of Prey; another for Dwarfs and decrepid People, who were entertained like kings; another for Crocodiles and Serpents, who were fed with men's flesh; and another Grand Building was made of the Skulls of the slain Enemies. . . ."

Hurrying north to get nearer home, we read that "the River Mississippi flows from Canada through the Middle of Florida. . . ." By "Florida" here we are to understand "French Florida," for, according to the text, there were also "English Florida" and "Wild Florida," although a re-