

most bloody occurrences in Spanish-American history, which have been charged to the Spaniards as acts of wanton cruelty, will yet be explained and justified as legitimate measures of war. What I have said of the occurrences at Cholula in regard to Cortes (that he acted in self-defense, and that the numbers of the slain had been greatly exaggerated), will eventually prove to have been the position in which Pizarro found himself at Caxamarca. (This has since been found to have really been the case.) That excesses were committed is beyond a doubt, but these excesses were the EXCEPTIONS and not the rule, and furthermore, they were punished. See, for instance, the ultimate career of Nuno de Guzman, and the punishment awarded to Hernando de Bezan, and to many others. Spanish justice was slow but sure, and no official, however exalted in position, escaped the dreaded "Residencia" (official and public investigation of term of office), or the still more dangerous "Vista" (secret investigation). On such occasions a functionary had his misdeeds charged against him, and if nobody else would accuse him of cruelty against the natives, there was surely some priest ready to drag him to trial for misconduct of that sort. It was not easy to escape punishment for cruelty to Indians under Spanish regime. The conquistatorial period is the most attractive, the most romantic part of Spanish-American history, but we must look to subsequent times for the agencies that have determined the influence of Spain upon the American aborigines—in other words, the establishment of regulated administration and the framing of special legislation for the Indian. They are the criterion by which to judge the part played by Spain on American soil. "The first great step in this direction was the promulgation of the celebrated 'New Laws and Ordinance for the Government of the Indies,' finally established in 1543, by which the aborigines were declared direct vassals to the Crown."

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