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The Tears of the **INDIANS:**
BEING
An Historical and true Account
Of the Cruel
Massacres and Slaughters
of above Twenty Millions
of innocent People ;
Committed by the Spaniards
In the Islands of
Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, &c.
As also, in the Continent of
Mexico, Peru, & other Places of the
West - Indies ,
To the total destruction of those Countries.

Written in Spanish by *Casaus,*
an Eye-witness of those things ;
And made English by *J. P.*

DEUT. 29. 15.

*Therefore thine eye shall have no compassion ; but life for
life , tooth for tooth , hand for hand , soo for foot.*

LONDON,

Printed by *J. C.* for *Nath. Brook,* at the Angel
in Cornhil. 1656.



Tears of the Indies, or Inquisition for Bloud: being the Relation of the Spanish Massacre there.

IN the year 1492. the *West-Indies* were discovered, in the following year they were inhabited by the *Spaniards*: a great company of the *Spaniards* going about 49. years agoe. The first place they came to, was *Hispaniola*, being a most fertile Island, and for the bignesse of it very famous, it being no less then six hundred miles in compass. Round about it lie an innumerable company of Islands, so throng'd with Inhabitants, that there is not to be found a greater multitude of people in any part of the world. The Continent is distant from this about Two hundred miles, stretching it self out in length upon the sea side for above Ten thousand miles in length. This is already found out, and more is daily discovered.

B

These

These Countreys are inhabited by such a number of people, as if God had assembled and called together to this place, the greatest part of Mankinde.

This infinite multitude of people was so created by God, as that they were without fraud, without subtilty or malice, to their natural Governours most faithful and obedient. Toward the *Spaniards* whom they serve, patient, meek and peaceful, and who laying all contentious and tumultuous thoughts aside, live without any hatred or desire of revenge; the people are most delicate and tender, enjoying such a feeble constitution of body as does not permit them to endure labour, so that the Children of Princes and great persons here, are not more nice and delicate then the Children of the meanest Countrey-man in that place. The Nation is very poor and indigent, possessing little, and by reason that they gaze not after temporal goods, neither proud nor ambitious. Their diet is such that the most holy Hermite cannot feed more sparingly in the wilderness. They go naked, only hiding the undecencies of nature, and a poor shag mantle about an ell or two long is their greatest and their warmest covering. They lie upon mats, only those who have larger fortunes, lye upon a kinde of net which is tied at the four corners, and so fasten'd to the roof, which the *Indians* in their natural

natural language call *Hamecks*. They are of a very apprehensive and docible wit, and capable of all good learning, and very apt to receive our Religion, which when they have but once tasted, they are carryed on with a very ardent and zealous desire to make a further progress in it; so that I have heard divers *Spaniards* confesse that they had nothing else to hinder them from enjoying heaven, but their ignorance of the true God.

To these quiet Lambs, endued with such blessed qualities, came the *Spaniards* like most cruel Tygres, Wolves, and Lions, enrag'd with a sharp and tedious hunger; for these forty years past, minding nothing else but the slaughter of these unfortunate wretches, whom with divers kinds of torments neither seen nor heard of before, they have so cruelly and inhumanely butchered, that of three millions of people which *Hispaniola* it self did contain, there are left remaining alive scarce three hundred persons. And for the Island of *Cuba*, which contains as much ground in length, as from *Valladolid* to *Rome*; it lies wholly desert, untill'd and ruin'd. The Islands of *St. John* and *Jamaica* lie waste and desolate. The *Lucayan* Islands neighbouring toward the North upon *Cuba* and *Hispaniola*, being above Sixty or thereabouts with those Islands that are vulgarly called the Islands of the Gyants; of which that which is least fertile is more fruitful

then the King of *Spain's* Garden at *Sevil*, being situated in a pure land temperate air, are now totally unpeopled and destroyed; the inhabitants thereof amounting to above 50000. souls, partly killed, and partly forced away to work in other places: so that there going a ship to visit those parts and to glean the remainder of those distressed wretches, there could be found no more then eleven men. Other Islands there were near the Island of *St. John* more then thirty in number, which were totally made desert. All which Islands, though they amount to such a number containing in length of ground the space of above Two thousand miles, lie now altogether solitary without any people or Inhabitant.

Now to come to the Continent, we are confident, and dare affirm upon our own knowledge, that there were ten Kingdomes of as large an extent as the Kingdome of *Spain*, joyning to it both *Arragon*, and *Portugal*, containing above a thousand miles every one of them in compass, which the unhumane and abominable villanies of the *Spaniards* have made a wilderness of, being now as it were stript of all their people, and made bare of all their inhabitants, though it were a place formerly possessed by vast and infinite numbers of men; And we dare confidently aver, that for those Forty years, wherein the *Spaniards* exercised their abominable cruelties,

cruelties, and detestable tyrannies in those parts, that there have innocently perish'd above Twelve millions of souls, women and children being numbred in this sad and fatal list; moreover I do verily believe that I should speak within compass, should I say that above Fifty millions were consumed in this Massacre.

As for those that came out of *Spain*, boasting themselves to be Christians, they took two several waies to extirpate this Nation from the face of the Earth, the first whereof was a bloody, unjust, and cruel war which they made upon them: a second by cutting off all that so much as sought to recover their liberty, as some of the stoutest sort did intend. And as for the Women and Children that were left alive, they laid so heavy and grievous a yoke of servitude upon them that the condition of beasts was much more tolerable.

Unto these two heads all the other several torments and inhumanities which they used to the ruine of these poor Nations may be reduced.

That which led the *Spaniards* to these un-sanctified impieties was the desire of Gold, to make themselves suddenly rich, for the obtaining of dignities & honours which were no way fit for them. In a word, their covetousness, their ambition, which could not be more in any people under heaven, the

riches of the Countrey, and the patience of the people gave occasion to this their devillish barbarism. For the *Spaniards* so contemned them (I now speak what I have seen without the least untruth) that they used them not like beasts, for that would have been tolerable, but looked upon them as if they had been but the dung and filth of the earth, and so little they regarded the health of their souls, that they suffered this great multitude to die without the least light of Religion; neither is this lesse true then what I have said before, and that which those tyants and haugmen themselves dare not deny, without speaking a notorious falshood, that the *Indians* neevr gave them the least cause to offer them violence, but received them as Angels sent from heaven, till their excessive cruelties, the torments and slaughters of their Countrymen mov'd them to take Armes against the *Spaniards*.

of



five thousand men, though they daily diminish through the immoderate oppressions of the *Spaniards*. Notwithstanding in former time for number of people, it was the most flourishing place in the whole world.

Of New Spain.

IN the year 1517. *New Spain* was discovered; after the discovery of which they did nothing first or second, but immediately fell to their old practises of cruelty and slaughter: for in the following year the *Spaniards* (who call themselves Christians) went thither to rob and kill; though they gave out that they went to people the Countrey. From that year unto this present year 1542. the violence, injustice and tyrannies of the *Spaniards* came to their full height; and now quite forgetting their humane natures, they laid aside all fear of God or of their King. For the slaughters, massacres, cruelties, devastations of Countreys, destructions of Cities, violences, tyrannies, and rapines of the *Spaniards*, which they did commit in these

these so many several and so large Kingdomes, are so numberlesse, and strike the minde with such a horror, that those which we have before related, are nothing in respect of these which we are to relate, being all perpetrated in the year 1518. and continued to this very moneth in a most sad and dreadfull manner; so that what we said before holds very true, that the *Spaniards* still went on from bad to worse, themselves striving to exceed themselves in wickednesse.

And thus from the first entry of the *Spaniards* into *New Spain*, which happened upon the tenth day of the moneth of *April*, continuing from the eighteenth year untill the thirtieth, in which space of time are contained twelve years compleat, there hath been no end of the bloody massacres and cruel slaughters of the *Spaniards*, perpetrated in the continent of *Mexico* and the parts adjoyning, which contained four or five large Kingdomes, that neither for compasse nor fertility gave place to *Spain*. All this region was more populous then either *Toledo*, *Sevill*, *Valadolid*, *Augusta Casarea*, or *Faventia*; nay I may affirm that there is not at this present, neither was there when those places were at the highest of their flourishing estate, so many people as in those parts, which take up the space of

D above

above a thousand and eight hundred miles. In these ten or twelve years, what with Men, Women, Youths, and Children, above four millions were by the *Spaniards* consumed part by fire, part by the sword in these destructive wars; wars more unjust and more condemn'd both by the Law of God and men, than any invasion of the *Turk* against the Catholique Religion. Neither do we now reckon those that died under the intolerable yoke and burdens of their captivity.

There is no language, no art or humane science, that can avail to recite the abominable crimes and bloody actions committed by these enemies not only of Commonwealths, but of all humane societies; neither can any diligence, or time of writing sufficiently aggravate the circumstances of these detestable deeds. Notwithstanding something I shall say of every one of them; though I do seriously protest, that I cannot rehearse one thing of a thousand in respect of all that were done.

Of New Spain in particular.

AMong other grand murders of theirs, they committed one more notorious in the City *Cholula*, which did contain above thirty thousand families. All the potent men of that Region, with the Priests who brought along with them their chief Priest also, came to meet the *Spaniards*; and that their reception and entertainment might be the more honourable, they agreed to entertain the *Spaniards* in the houses of the greatest Noble men; but here the *Spaniards* consulted how to begin their massacres, or as they call'd them, chastisements of the people, that they might keep in awe every corner of the Countrey with the terror of their cruelties. For this was their common custome, that they no sooner had set footing in any place, but they committed immediately some notorious violence upon the people, that the rest might stand in the greater fear of them. They sent therefore to the supreme Lord of the City, as also to all the other Lords and Governours, that they should give them a meeting, but they were no sooner come to parley, but they were all immediately

diately laid hold on, leaving none to carry back these bad tidings to the rest; first they demanded of them six thousand *Indians*, to carry the Luggage which they had with them, which when they were brought together they shut up in their houses. It was a sad spectacle to behold this poor people preparing themselves to carry those burthens. They came naked, covering only their secret parts, and at their shoulders hung a little Net wherein they kept their food; and thus while they stooped under their burthens, they lay open to all the cuts and blowes of the Spanish weapons. Now being in this manner gathered together in a great and wide place, part of the *Spaniards* all in armes, stood at the door to keep the rest out, while others with Swords and Launces kill'd the innocent Lambs, so that not one escaped. After three or four daies were expired, some that had hid themselves among the dead bodies all over besmeared with blood, came with all submission imploring mercy and compassion from them; but they not at all regarding their tears, nor moved with their lamentations, immediately hew'd them to pieces. All the Lords and Noble men, were kept a while in chains, and afterward at the Commandement of the Spanish Captain, tied to stakes and burnt to death.

But

But the King of the whole Countrey escaped, with about thirty or forty men, be- taking himself to a Temple which was like a Castle, and in their language called *Quu*; there defending himself a good part of the day; but the *Spaniards* out of whose hand few of them, especially the souldiery escap'd, setting the Temple on fire, burnt them all that were within alive, who as they were dying, brake forth into these lamentations: O wicked men, how have we injured you, that you should thus torment us? Away, away to *Mexico*, where our chief Lord *Montenchuma* will revenge our quarrel. This is also reported that while the *Spaniards* were busily acting this bloudy Tragedy, killing and destroying above six thousand innocent creatures, their chief Captain in sport sung these verses:

One flame the Roman 'City now de-
 stroyes,
 And shrieks of people made a dismal
 noyie,
 While *Nero* sung, and moved with de-
 light,
 From *Tarpey* Hill beheld the wofull
 sight.

Another butchery was by them commit-
 ted in the City of *Tepeaca*, which was a

much larger City then the former. Here they put to the sword an infinite number of people, with many additions of cruelty.

Departing from *Cholula* they came to *Mexico*, the King whereof *Montenichuma* sent the Peers and Nobles of this Realm with innumerable presents to meet them, who all the way testified by several sports and solemnities, the joy which they had for their arrivall; When they approached near the wal of the City, the Kings Brother came forth with many Noble men to meet him, who brought many gifts of Gold and Silver, to present them with. Coming to the entry of the City, there stood the King himself with all his attendants, who being carried in a golden Litter accompanied them to the Palace which was prepared for them. But that very day, as was told me by some that were there, they seized upon the King, little suspecting any such matter, setting a guard upon his person of above eighty Soldiers: after that they put him in chains. But here passing by many things which might be said; I will relate one thing worthy observation. The Governor being call'd away to quell one of his Captains that had taken armes against him, and having left *Montenichuma* with a guard of above a
hun.

hundred, it came into the mindes of the Spaniards to do something which might render them dreadful and terrible to the Indians; which was a policy, as I said before, they did often use. In the mean while all the Nobility and commonalty of the City minded nothing else but to exhilarate the minde of their captive King with several varieties of sports and recreations. Among which there was none that they used more then dancings and revellings, which they performed all night long in the streets. These exercises they in their language call'd *Miretes*, but the Islanders *Areytos*. To these recreations they bring together all their wealth and richest garments, and what ever they do esteem precious; using them as the greatest testimonies of gladness. The Nobles also and Princes of the Royal bloud every one according to their degree, were buie in these sports in those places which were nearest the houses where the King was detained captive. Not far from the Palace there were above two thousand youths, being all the children of the Nobility, and indeed the flower of the Nobility which were in *Mantenchuma's* Kingdome. To these came the Captain of the Spaniards with a small party of Soldiers, sending other Troops to other parts of the City, as if they only came to be

spectators. But the Captain had given command that at a certain hour they should fall upon them; and he himself being about to lead the way, cry'd out, *St. Jago*, let us rush in upon them. The word being thus given, the Souldiers all fell on, and with their swords began to hack and hew those delicate bodies, spilling that generous and noble blood with such an unheard of malice, that they left not one alive. And doing thus to others in other places, there fell a dismal fear and amazement upon the whole Countrey. Nor will these poor creatures doubtlesse ever forget as long as the world stands, to lament and bewail in their solemnities the sad calamity and ruine of the whole seminary of their Nobility, of which they were wont so much to boast.

The *Indians* beholding this unheard of cruelty and injustice committed upon such a number of innocent souls, having with long patience endured the captivity of their King, who had charg'd them to be quiet, now ran all to their arms, and falling upon the *Spaniards*, wounded many, the rest narrowly escaping: at length the *Spaniards* putting a Dagger to the brest of the King *Montencuma* threatned to kill him unlesse he would look through the window and command his subjects to lay down their

their armes. But the *Indians* at that time contemning the commands of their King, chose them a Captain whom they made chief Commander of all their Forces. By this time the forementioned Governour was returned from subduing his enemy, bringing with him a greater number of *Spaniards* then he carried away with him. Whereupon the *Indians* desisted from doing any thing more untill he was entered into the City. But then gathering together very great Forces, they fought so vigorously, that the *Spaniards* despairing of victory resolved to retreat in a tempestuous night and to leave the City. Which being known to the *Indians*, they cut off abundance of them upon the bridges of the Lakes: neither can any man deny but that they did it justly, for the reasons above rehearsed. Afterwards the *Spaniards* having recollected more forces, there followed that great contention in the City, wherein they committed so many several butcheries upon the *Indians*, by killing and burning both the Commonalty and the Nobility in a most barbarous manner.

Having committed so many detestable slaughters upon the *Indians* in *Mexico*, and other places distant ten, fifteen and twenty miles from thence, this tyrannical plague pro-

proceeded to infest and depopulate the City of *Panuco*. There was a wonderful frequency of people in that Countrey, neither were the slaughters, that were there committed, lesse remarkable. In the like manner they laid waste the Provinces of *Tatepeca*, *Ipilcingorium*, and *Columa*, every one of which is of as large a compasse as the Kingdomes of *Legima* and *Castile*. It is a very hard thing, if not altogether impossible, to rec te all the murthers and cruelties there committed ; besides that, it would cloy the reader.

Here we must observe, that they entred into these Kingdomes and territories, (which for the abundance of people ought to have been the joy of all true Christians) upon no pretence, but as they said to reduce them to slavery. For at their first entrance they commanded them to swear fealty and obedience to the King of *Spain*, & those that would not come in and submit themselves to the will of such unjust and cruel men, they proclaimed rebels, and and accus'd them of that crime to the King. The blindness of the chief Governours of the *Indies* not permitting them to discern, that no man can be called a *Rebell* who is not before a *Subject*.

This cruel Tyrant leaning upon this pretence, sent two other Captains excell-
ling

ling himself in fury, and impiety to *Guatemala* the most fertile and most flourishing Kingdome both for men and fruit of any that were situated southward. They had also received commands to visit the Kingdomes of *Naco*, *Honduras*, and *Guaimara* looking toward the north, and being distant from *Mexico* above three hundred miles; the one was sent by land, the other by sea, being both of them well furnished with men and ammunition for Horse and Foot.

And this I dare affirm, that the enormities committed by these two Captains, and by him especially that was sent to *Guatemala* (for the other dyed an evill death in good time) are enough to fill a particular volume, so many were the slaughters, violences, injuries, butcheries, and beastly desolations which they perpetrated, as do not only amaze the present, but must of necessity strike a horror into future ages: for in this place their abominations and devastations were more fatal then in any place before.

As for him that went by sea, he vex'd all the shore with his incursions and cruelties, to whom there came certain out of the Kingdome of *Yucatan*, which lies in the way to the Kingdomes of *Naco*, and *Naymura*, whither he was then marching, and brought

brought him many presents, yet he was no sooner come into the Countrey, but he sent the souldiers to depopulate and waste the same, who ceased not to commit many abominable outrages. Among the rest, a certain seditious rebel entering into a region bordering upon *Guatemala*, burnt up their City, killing the Inhabitants, and laying waste all the Countrey, which he did on purpose, that if he should be pursued by his enemies, they might be liable to the revenge of the *Indians* as they passed along; which happened accordingly, for there the chief Commander from whose power the foresaid Captain had rebell'd, was slain; but he was succeeded by many other fell tyrants, who with their wonted cruelties and captivity destroyed the people, selling them to those that brought garments and other provision, and by that kinde of servitude, which they practised from the year 1524. to the year 1535. they depopulated and made desert the provinces of *Naco* and *Honduras*, which seemed to be the *Elysium* and *Paradise* of the world in every respect. And I have lately seen them so destroyed, that it would move the most stony heart to compassion. In these eleven years there perished in this Countrey above two millions, scarce two thousand now remaining,

maining, who daily diminish through the hardnesse of their servitude.

But as for that abominable tyrant that exceeded all that were before in tyranny, and is equall to all that remains behinde, let us now finde him out in *Guatemala*.

He going through the Provinces adjoining to *Mexico* toward *Guatemala*, which are above four hundred miles in length, minded nothing else all the way he went, but slaughters, rapines, burnings, depopulations, compelling all upon the foresaid pretence to submit themselves to their cruelties, in the name of the King of *Spain*, whom they had never seen nor heard of, and whom they could not but think more unjust and cruel then his Ministers and Officers, yet giving them no time to deliberate, they wasted all before them with fire and sword.

Of