

## *The Awakening of Spain*

The beginning of the sixteenth century coincides with "the heroic period of the history of Spain, the period of the final victory over the Moors and of the visionary conquest of a new world, period in which religious and military enthusiasm elevated the national character in an extraordinary manner. In war as in diplomacy and in the art of governing, the preeminence of the Spaniards was recognized and feared." By the end of the fifteenth century, Columbus had discovered and acquired for the crown of Spain "extensive and extremely rich territories." It was during the first years of the sixteenth century when the first European saw the Pacific Ocean; and while in Euskirchen the crown of Charlemagne and Redbeard was placed upon the head of Charles V...

Charles V ascended to the throne as sovereign of Spain and Naples, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria...

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With the invention of the printing press the Bible spread into the homes of the people... Among the order of monks "convent life had become so corrupt that the more virtuous monks could no longer tolerate it." ...The sincere catholics, who loved and honored the religion of old, were horrified by the pomp that was displayed everywhere....

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...thousands of tracts and booklets were introduced by contraband, deceiving the watchful eye of the agents standing guard in the main port of the Mediterranean and along the passages of the Pyrenees...

One of the most tenacious and fortunate colporteurs in the business was Julián Hernández, a dwarf who, often disguised as a peddler or mule driver, made many trips into Spain, either crossing the Pyrenees, or entering by one of the southern ports of Spain....

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Nonetheless it was in "the Jeronimian convent... one of the most celebrated monasteries in Spain... where the light of divine truth shone with more splendor. One of the monks, Garcia de Arias... cautiously taught his brothers...

...twelve of them abandoned the monastery and, by different routes, managed to find safety outside of Spain, and twelve months later they met in Geneva."

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...Antonio Herrezuelo, exceedingly wise lawyer, and of Doña Leonor de Cisneros, his wife, a twenty-four year old young lady, discrete and greatly virtuous and of such beauty as would be fancied by desire.

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As Herrezuelo advanced to the gallows...

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...she was thrown into prison...

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