

The Spaniards brought many gifts to the New World. Most of the Indians in North America and South America were living in a stone age when the first white men came. They had very simple weapons and tools. Most of them made their living by hunting and fishing. The Spaniards brought civilization to a large part of the New World. The Spaniards built cities with churches and schools. They taught some of the Indians to read and to raise crops. Before the Sixteenth Century came to an end, there were seven universities in Spanish America. This was before the English and French had made a single permanent settlement in the New World. In Mexico City, the Spaniards set up the first printing press in the New World. It was used to print a catechism in 1534.

The greatest gift which the Spaniards brought the New World was the true Faith. The Spaniards had remained Catholics while many other people of Western Europe had become Protes-

tants. Missionary priests from Spain went throughout Spanish America telling the Indians about the teachings of Our Lord. Before many years passed, most of the Indians in Spanish America were Catholics. Two of the best known Spanish priests in the New World were Father Bartolomé de Las Casas who worked in the West Indies and Father Junipero Serra who worked in California.

Mexico and the other Spanish colonies broke away from Spain in the Nineteenth Century. They are now independent countries. The people in these countries still speak the Spanish language. Almost everybody in these countries is a Catholic. The language and the religion of the people in these countries remind us of the days when Spain ruled a vast empire in the New World.

**The Portuguese settle in Brazil.** Pedro Cabral claimed Brazil for Portugal in 1500. The Portuguese made their first settlement in Brazil in 1531. In

