

**STORIES OF THE SPANISH  
CONQUESTS IN AMERICA:  
DESIGNED FOR THE USE  
OF CHILDREN; VOL. II**

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Stories of the Spanish conquests in America: designed for the use of children; Vol. II by Charles Sedgwick

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**CHARLES SEDGWICK**

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**STORIES**  
OF THE  
**SPANISH CONQUESTS**  
IN  
**AMERICA.**

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF

'THE BEATITUDES,' AND 'LESSONS WITHOUT BOOKS.'

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**VOL. II.**

BOSTON:  
LEONARD C. BOWLES.  
1830.

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DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, to wit:

*District Clerk's Office.*

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 10th day of August, A. D. 1839, in the fifty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, LEONARD C. BOWERS, of the said district, has deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, to the words following, to wit:

Stories of the Spanish Conquests in America. Designed for the use of Children. By the author of the *Penitence*, and *Lessons Without Books*.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned; and also to an act, entitled "An act supplementary to an act, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned;" and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS,

*Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.*

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## CHAPTER IX.

Conquest of Mexico. Expedition of Cordova.  
of Grijalva. Cortes. Montezuma.

I must now go back a few years in order to recount to you the discoveries which led to a momentous event in the history of the new world—the Conquest of Mexico.

In 1517, an expedition under the command of one Cordova, was fitted out from the Island of Cuba with the approbation and patronage of Diego Velasquez, Governor of that Island.

It was destined to explore the sea which stretches to the west of Cuba, of which, as yet, very little was known.



The first land discovered was Cape Catoche the eastern point of the large peninsula, which still retains the name of Yucatan. Here the inhabitants were found decently dressed in garments of cotton; a novel spectacle in the new world, as all the natives of the Islands, and of those parts of South America which had been discovered, were naked savages. As the party advanced into the country, they were still more surprised at perceiving large houses built of stone.

But if the inhabitants were more civilized, they were also more warlike; and though they seemed friendly at first, it was not long before an ambush was laid for the Spaniards, and a combat ensued, in

which several of them were wounded by the Indian arrows.

The natives, however, terrified by a sudden discharge of fire arms, fled precipitately.

Cordova proceeded on to Campeachy, and thence to a river called Potouchan. Here too, the natives were very hostile, and attacking the Spaniards with great fury, while they were engaged in procuring a supply of water, killed forty seven of them upon the spot, and wounded more or less, every man, with a single exception.

After this disaster, it was deemed necessary to return immediately to Cuba. On their way thither they suffered great distress from the want of water, distress which was aggravated by the sickly and wounded

state of the crews, shut up in small vessels, and exposed to the heat of the torrid zone. Several died on the passage, and the commander expired, just after he landed in Cuba.

Still, the ardor of the Spaniards was unchecked by any of these adverse circumstances, and directly, another expedition was fitted out under the command of one Grijalva, who sailed from St Jago, in Cuba early in the year 1518.

The first land which he discovered, was Cozumel, a small Island, east of Yucatan; he then proceeded on to Potouchan, which he reached without the occurrence of any important incident, and being determined to revenge the death of his countrymen there, he had a battle with the natives, whom however, he conquer-