

**CHRONOLOGICAL DIGEST OF
THE "DOCUMENTOS INEDITOS
DEL ARCHIVO DE LAS INDIAS"
(UNEDITED DOCUMENTS OF THE
INDIES)**

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Chronological Digest of the "Documentos Ineditos Del Archivo de Las Indias" (Unedited Documents of the Indies) by Benjamin M. Read

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BENJAMIN M. READ

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CORRECTION TO READ'S "DIGEST OF DOCUMENTOS INEDITOS ETC."

At page 94, and immediately above the year "1583" insert the following:-
"1582, November 9, -Official report of Antonio de Espejo of his expedition to what is now New Mexico. Espejo discovers rich mines and gives the province the name of "AN-DALUCIA."
1570

93477

CHRONOLOGICAL DIGEST

OF THE

"DOCUMENTOS INEDITOS DEL ARCHIVO DE LAS INDIAS"

(Unedited Documents of the Indies)



BY

Review

BENJAMIN M. READ
OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

AUTHOR OF

- "ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF NEW MEXICO."
- "HISTORIA ILUSTRADA DE NUEVO MEXICO."
- "GUERRA MEXICO-AMERICANA."
- "HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO."
- "ELEMENTARY HISTORY OF NEW MEXICO."
- "LIFE OF HERNAN CORTES—CONQUEST OF MEXICO."
- "LIFE OF ARCHBISHOP J. B. LAMY."
- "LIFE OF ALVAR NUNEZ CABEZA DE VACA."



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FROM THE
BRIGHT LEGACY.

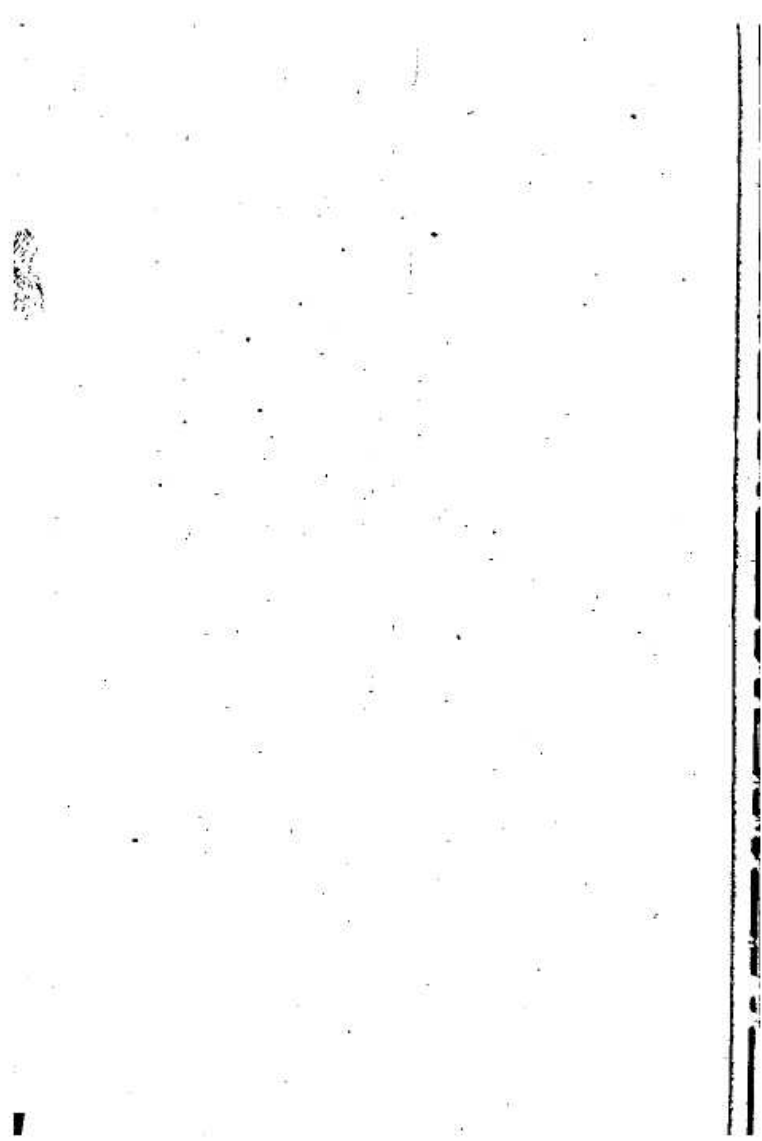
One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

HENRY BRIGHT, JR.,

who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1685. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.



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INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR

On the 4th day of December, 1862, a Royal Decree was issued by the King of Spain authorizing an official research into the old official Archives in that Kingdom. The object having been to ascertain what truth there was in the belief which for centuries had been general in Spain; that more than half of the true history of the discovery and conquest of the New World had never been published.

This important and arduous task was confided to a committee of three of the ablest men in Spain, to-wit, Don Joaquin F. Pacheco and Don Francisco de Cárdenas, members of divers royal scientific academies, and Don Luis Torres Mendoza, Attorney General of Spain. This committee at once began its labors and on the 31st. day of January, 1864, the first issue of the series was given to the world in pamphlet form. The last pamphlet was published in 1884.

The work is contained in 42 volumes of six pamphlets each, volume 33 being a General Index to the first 32 volumes. The compilers started the work in chronological order but did not succeed in compiling the documents in that order, strictly speaking, because the documents were found scattered among millions of other papers, and that was the reason why they were published in the order in which they were found, but, in so far as it was possible so to do, in a semi-chronological order. I have followed the same method in order to have my Digest conform to the original work, thus making it easier for the student to refer to any particular document by merely citing the date and the number of the volume or document, where the number and page is not given cite the date.

The new light which these documents throw upon the history of the discovery and conquest of the New World, and the other Spanish possessions, is truly surprising. It will be seen that more than half of that history had not, prior to 1884, been known; that by reading the official reports of Columbus, and his sons, etc.; Amérigo Vespuccio, Sebastian Cabot; Cano; Magallanes; Pedro Arias Dávila, Balboa; Cortés, Pizarro, Almagro, De las Casas and the rest of those great men who discovered, conquered, christianized and civilized the New World, that these documents will make great changes in what to our day had been accepted as a complete history.

Any historian, or history student, wishing to verify narratives heretofore published as history can obtain from me a certified copy in Spanish, or in English, by paying a reasonable price for same.

That the importance and historical worth of this great work may be duly appreciated by historians, etc., I have thought it proper to reproduce in English the language used by the publishers in their Prospectus, which is also their Preface. Here it is:

**"PROSPECTUS OF THE WORK OR COMPILATION
HEREIN BEGUN."**

"Our Royal Archives of the Indies embrace, and could not but embrace, the most abundant treasure in reference to the History of the New World. That is a fact that mere reason should sufficiently indicate and that the studies of authoritative persons was justified and proved. Depository of all that was done, all that was written, all that was thought, since the dawn of the discovery, one finds there the most notable title of the glory of Spain, as well as the most exact explanation, either of our char-