

in this jurisdiction who do, because though they have cattle and cultivate fruits and vegetables, it is only in accordance to the annual consumption of the inhabitants, as they, for the greater part, occupy themselves little with the cultivation of the ground.

"The province suffers from the great calamity that it at certain periods is flooded with grasshoppers, which destroy the plants and fields in the most sad way, and, as no human remedy has been found for such great destruction, the inhabitants have sought the favor of the divine forgiveness through help of the most holy Virgin, miraculous in the mystery of the pure conception, whose picture can be seen in the head town of this district, Chinameca, whose patron saint she is, because she has freed the fields from these obnoxious insects, and this marvel has been felt because when the insects abound, they take out the holy image in procession, then the number of insects diminishes and the destruction which they cause to the fields stops.

"This country is watered by the large river Guazacualco, which gives its name to the province. It runs from north to south, always running in the center of the province until it empties in the sea, and on its banks on each side grow trees of great height capable of serving as they, in fact, do for the construction of large ships, for which reason woods, spars, boards, and whole trunks are carried to Vera Cruz, and at the present moment this business is run by the Royal Hacienda. It is a fact that if the cutting of trees was more regular they would be more useful and the Bar of the Guazacualco river would be constantly protected if the town of Espiritu Santo would again be inhabited, but this town now is totally abandoned, and the name only remains of that which it once was."*

At present, in the interior as at Mecayapa, mentioned by Villa-Señor y Sanchez, there are no avowedly "mestizo" or non-Indian families to be found.

If this description is accurate for its period, the Popoluca ("Populoco") area must have considerably diminished. Huimanguillo, there mentioned, is no longer in the definitely Indian territory; Chinameca has become a sophisticated town of the ordinary Mexican type. The Nahuatl group has been, on the whole, expanding, side by side with the Spanish.

At Piedra Labrada we were told that the following towns still speak Popoluca:

Ocozôtepec,
Soteapan,
Amamelóya,
Ocotal Grande,
Ocotal Chico,
Aguacate,
Cuilonia,
Buena Vista,
Piedra Labrada.

These towns make a small island, or rather a group of islands, scattered about among Nahuatl-speaking and Spanish peoples.

*Abandoned because of frequent attacks by English Pirates.