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Coronado's Harahey.

It is a pretty well established fact that Coronado, a governor of a Spanish province in Mexico, set out from that place in the year 1540 with about three hundred Spaniards and from sevenhundred to one thousand Indian allies to explore the country to the northeast of the then known lands. He spent the winter of 1540-41 on the Rio Grande River. In April he again set out to the northeast in pursuance of a plan to explore other provinces of which he had heard from the Indians. He took with him an Indian, one whom he found as a captive in the hands of the tribes he had met on the Rio Grande for a guide. This Indian he called the 'Turk' because he said he looked like one. The Turk had embellished all the Indian report of the country to the northeast for Coronado's ear to the effect that that was his home and that it contained large cities of big buildings and much gold.

Fired with enthusiasm, Coronado started, as above stated, with his army from the Indian village of Tiguex on the Rio Grande, accompanied by the Turk and a Quivira Indian named Isopete. After wandering for some time on the staked plains of New Mexico and west Texas, Coronado became convinced that the Turk was playing traitor by leading him astray. He then put him in irons and, sending back the main body of his army to Tiguex, turned northward and after journeying 42 days in this direction under the guidance of Isopete, he reached the country of Quivira. He spent twenty five days in Quivira and after sending for Tatarax, chief of Harahey, which province lay next beyond, prepared for his return journey, not without strangling to death the traitor Turk, who had incited his people of Harahey with their 200 warriors present to fall upon and destroy the 30 Spaniards.

It is not the purpose of this writer to go into the formerly much mooted question of just where the boundaries of Quivira are. That has been pretty well fixed in his mind by the writings of Hodge, Simpson, Bandelier, Ritchey, Dunbar, Winship, Basket and others as somewhere on the Kansas River in the vicinity of Junction city and Lindsborg. I do not think that Coronado reached the Missouri River and have his own testimony that he did not explore Harahey.

Anyone attempting to locate Harahey would do well to follow closely the narratives left us of persons who wrote at the time of the expedition and who were members of Coronado's force.

Of the four narratives which were written by eye witnesses on the journey, Casteneda, writing twenty years afterward, has given most information and in minutest detail. In speaking of Quivira, he said that the great river of the Holy Spirit (Espiritu Santo or Mississippi) flowed through it, or the countries explored farthest away. Casteneda did not accompany Coronado on the trip to Quivira but returned with the main army to Tiguex. His narrative of Quivira is of course derived from others of that party. Of Harahey he says that "it (the Mississippi) passed through a province called Arahe, according to reliable accounts obtained here" It should not confuse the reader as the Missouri is yet spoken of by some writers as the parent stream. Arahe was his way, no doubt of spelling Harahey.

Another able writer, in describing the journey and one who was with Coronado in Quivira was the now unknown author of the Spanish manuscript, Relabion Del Suceso. Quoting from him, " Francisco Vasquez (Coronado) went 25 leagues through these settlements, (Quivira) to where he obtained an account of what was beyond, and they said that the plains come to an end. ----- They also gave an account of two other villages, one of which was called Tareque, and the other Arae, with straw houses at Tareque and at Arae some of straw and some of skins. Arae was undoubtedly the spelling the writer of Suceso gave to Harahey.

Jaramillo, a captain in Coronado's army and one who was on the trip into Kansas, in writing about the ~~the~~ expedition twenty years after, has this to say of Harahey. After crossing the Quivira or Arkansas River and marching for three days, the force fell in with some Quivira hunters, according to Jaramillo, Coronado wrote to the Governor of Harahey. Again, he says, "~~The general sent to~~" "We reached what they (the Indians) said was the end of Quivira, -----Being asked if there was anything beyond, they said there was nothing more of Quivira but that there was Harahey.----- The general sent to summon the lord of those parts and the other Indians who said they resided in Harahey, and he came with about 200 men, all naked, with bows, and some sort of things on their heads, and their privy parts slightly covered.

This is about the testimony of the narrators concerning Harahey that we have preserved. written by persons who were with Coronado. Coronado himself does not refer to Harahey by name but speaks of the province farther on, undoubtedly referring to it.

Now we propose to show by modern exploration and excavation that the country from Atchison county, Kansas, to the Nemaha River in Nebraska was once the home of many powerful tribes and probably subtribes of Indians and that it was probably the seat of Coronado's Harahey.

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