

In this manner a simple lot-game like *tāb* may have given rise to the dice-game which prevails with so great similarity across the world, that ordinary European names may be used for it almost indifferently, such as *tables*, *trictac*, *backgammon*. Its introduction may be assigned to Western Asia, probably to Persia, where it was known at the time of ARTAXERXES, and flourishes still under the name of *nard*. It is needless to discuss its later history here, but attention should be drawn to a point which touches the present enquiry. While the dice-game is common to the Eastern and Western worlds, so that an Icclander could easily play backgammon with a Japanese on an ancient Roman board, the lot-game which seems to have preceded it spread east rather than west. At any rate, if any game like *tāb* or *pachisi* played with two-faced lots ever reached Western Europe, it is not commonly known, nor recorded in ordinary books on the history of games. In now examining the American games, it will be seen that this bears forcibly, though not indeed conclusively, on the question whether these correspond more closely with games belonging to Asiatics or to Europeans.

As early as 1519, the Spanish invaders on their way to the city of Mexico noticed cloths worked in chessboard-pattern from which they judged that the dice-boxes of chequers were also in use in the country¹). The only known Mexican game for which these cloths were likely to have been intended was *patolli*. Of this game the description by LOPEZ DE GOMARA was written between 1540-50, as follows: Sometimes MONTEZUMA looked on as they played at *patoliztli*, which much resembles the game of tables, and which is played with beans marked like one-faced dice which they call *patolli*, which they shake between both hands and throw on a mat or on the ground where there are certain lines like a merell-board, on which they mark with stones the point that came up, by taking off or putting on a little stone²). JUAN DE TORQUEMADA partly follows this account but gives further details: "there was another game they call *patolli*, which somewhat resembles the game of royal tables, and is played with beans having points made in them after the manner of one-faced dice, and they call it the game of *patolli* because these dice are so called; they throw them with both hands on a thin mat which is called *petate*, with certain lines drawn on it in the form of a St. Andrew's cross and others across them, marking the point which fell upwards (as is done with dice) taking off or putting on stones of different colour, as in the game of tables³). BERNARDINO DE SAHAGUN has other details to contribute, especially as to the marking of the beans. He mentions

¹) PETR. MARTYR. De nuper repertis Insulis, Basileæ 1521 p. 38; De Orbe novo, Compluti 1530, p. 86. "Lodices varias gossampinas, cādido, nigro et flavo coloribus intextas, duas auro et gemmis ditas, tresq: alias pennis et gossampino intextas scacorum ludo; quod argumentum est et scacorum fritillos habere eos in usu." "Non est alienum a re, licet ludicum, quibus ludis utantur dicere: scacorum fritillos habere notum est, per scacos in lodicibus contextos."

²) FRANCESCO LOPEZ DE GOMARA, Istoria de las Indias, Saragossa 1552, fol. 42. "Algunas vezes mirauia Moteçuma como jugauan al Patoliztli, que parece mucho al juego de las tablas. Y que se juega con hauas, o frisoles raiados como dados de harinillas que dizen Patolli. Los quales menean entre ambas manos. Y los echan sobre una estera, o en el suelo, donde ay ciertas rayas, como alquerque, en que señalan con piedras el punto que cayo arriba, quitando, o poniendo china." The harinillas or arenillas were dice used in Spain at the game of rentilla, they had points on only one face, numbering one to six.

³) JUAN DE TORQUEMADA, Monarquia Indiana, Seville 1615, book XIV, c. 12 "Auiá otro juego que llaman *Patolli*, que en algo parece al juego de las tablas reales, y juegase con hauas y frisoles, hechos puntos en ellos, a manera de dados de arenillas, y dizenle juego *Patolli*, porque estos dados se llaman assi; echanlos con ambas manos sobre una estera delgada que se llama *petate*, hechas ciertas rayas a manera de aspa y atrauessando otras señalando el punto que cayó hazia arriba (como se haze en los dados) quitando, o poniendo chinas de diferente color, como en el juego de las tablas."