

patolli as a pastime of the lords, describing the lots as "four large beans, each having a hole", and again that "they made on the mat a painted cross full of squares... they took three great beans with certain dots made in them, and let them fall on the painted cross. By the time of this writer the game, at which gold and jewels used to be staked, had been given up under suspicion of idolatry¹⁾.

The already mentioned History of the Indies bearing the name of DIEGO DURAN appears from the critical examination by RAMIREZ and CHAVERO to have been more or less an earlier composition written by a native Mexican, probably in his own language. The picture-writing accompanying it, though so late as to be much Europeanized, is an authentic document. The whole may be taken as a record from, or near, the first generation after the conquest in 1521. Chapter C. treats chiefly of *patolli*, at which and other games the Indians not only would gamble themselves into slavery, but even came to be legally put to death as human sacrifices. So covetous were these gamblers that they took as their particular gods the instruments of their game, if it was dice-playing they held the dice as a god and the lines and figures marked on the mat, as seen in the picture²⁾, which gods they worshipped with particular ceremonies not only at this game but at all their other games. They played the game of *merells* or draughts imitating the game of chess played by the Spaniards, taking one from the other the black and white stones or pieces. "There was another game, which was that they made on a plaster floor little hollows after the manner of a game-board, and one took ten stones and the other ten others, and the one placed his stones on the one edge and the other on the other on contrary sides, and taking some reeds split down the middle they threw them on the ground so that they sprang up, and as many reeds as fell with the hollow side upward so many places he moved his stones forward, and thus one followed the other, and all such stones as he overtook, he took one after another till he left his adversary without any." There was also the game of the mat, which was the keenest they played, at which many could play jointly and in company, "the game they played on this mat they called *patolli*, which is the same word we now use for cards". On this mat they had painted a large St. Andrew's-cross filling the mat from corner to corner, within the hollow of which cross there were some transverse lines serving for squares, which cross and squares were marked and drawn with diluted olin (caoutchouc)... for these squares there were twelve small stones, six red and six blue, which stones they divided between the players so many to each; if two played as was usual, each took six, and although many might play, one always played for all, they following his play.... who had the best throws of the dice, which were some black beans, five or ten according as they wished to lose or gain, which had some little white holes in each bean by which were marked the number of squares which were gained on

¹⁾ BERNARDINO DE SAHAGUN, Historia Universal de las Cosas de Nueva España, in KINGSBOROUGH, Antiquities of Mexico, vol. VII, book VIII, c. 10, 17. "Tambien los Señores por su pasatiempo jugaban un juego que se llama *Patolli*, que es como el juego del castro ó alquerque ó casi, ó como el juego de los dados, y son cuatro frisoles grandes que cada uno tiene un agujero, y arrojanles con la mano sobre un petate como quien juega a los carnicoles donde está hecha una figura. A este juego solian jugar y ganarse cosas preciosas, como cuentas de oro y piedras preciosas, turquesas muy finas. Este juego y el de la pelota hanlo dejado, por ser sospechosos de algunas supersticiones idolatricas que en ellos hay." "El segunde pasatiempo que tenian era un juego como dados; hacian en un petate una cruz pintada llena de cuadros semejantes al juego del alquerque ó castro, y puestos sobre el petate sentados tomaban tres frisoles grandes hechos ciertos puntos en ellos, y dejabanlos caer sobre la cruz pintada, y de alli tenian su juego."

²⁾ Plate V. fig. 2.