

THE MODERN BLACKSMITH
BLACKSMITHS

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| Marked though it has been by faults largely those of the ages, the geographical history of Spain is glorious to the highest degree, whether measured by its material or moral results, says the National Geographic Magasays the Nathonal Geographic Maga- zine. With the discoveries of Columbus and the world circumnavigation of Magellan, modern geography was born. Indefatigable in purpose, unsurpassed in bravery, unyielding in religion, but differential to racial prefu- dices, gracious in manner and courteous in speech, Spanish explorers made an indelible impress from one end of the earth to the other. In the Antilles or South America, in Mexico or the Phillppines, they thoroughly implanted their customs and ideals, their adand language. The Spanish civil law, whose first Mexican code antedated by half a century any English settlement in the United States, is to-day, in pure or modified form, second as to area and population only to English law, while the melodious language of Spain is the daily speech of nearly triple its home population. In the ag- gregate the Spanish explorer, by ex- <br> tending the sway of law over and in- stilling Christianity into the hearts of the natives of new lands, has exerted a more potent influence than has any other nationality. <br> of all explorations none appeared at the time richer than those of Portugal, from Prince Henry, the navigator, to Diaz and Vasco de Gama; yet they were morally perverted. The coasts of Africa were circumnavigated and exploited and the trade of Inda made attainable by sea. Pope Alexander VI., by the famous demarkation bull of May 4, 1493, confirmed the posses- sion of the eastern half of the newly discovered world to Portugal, which at once rose to commercial suprema. cy and the height of its material glory. But traffic was the sole aim, and the African slave trade a most essential factor in its profits. During four centuries Portugal was distinctly foremost in this human traffic, which by its horrors and immoralities has not alone outraged the spirit of Chris- tianity, but has also, particularly in America, produced conditions yexatious an degree. FIGHTING OPIUM IN |  |
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