

their ~~latter~~ overlords ran deep, ^{had proven} ~~proved~~ themselves
^{all too often}
on more than one occasion to be dangerously ungovernable
committing acts of cruelty and outrage upon their
enemies that Cortes himself clearly refused to
comment on in his letters ~~to~~ to his sovereign Charles the V.

In the end, in spite of their spirit, there was only so
much that flesh could bear ~~and~~ to the east of the city
Cuauhtemoc ^{had been} ~~was~~ captured trying to escape eastward
on the lake in a covered canoe and brought before
Cortes. It was ~~already~~ late afternoon and by the
time the formalities and speeches of surrender
were over ^{it had begun to rain} it was raining lightly. ~~The~~ long files
of Spaniards and ^{their} allies had already ^{been} leaving
the ^{city} ~~city~~ ^{abandoning} ~~smoking~~ ruins away from the stench
and ~~destruction~~ ^{destruction} ^{while} the veils of rain and cloud enveloped
~~obscured~~ ^{everything} the city ^{in a darkening} ~~as darkness set in~~ ^{darkness} ~~set~~ and
in a strange silence, the allies ~~booty taken~~ to their
~~own countries~~ almost immediately left in great
caravans of treasure and honor to their distant
countries, the Spaniards to their makeshift camps
on the causeways and ^{finally} ~~and~~ Cortes to his headquarters in
the city of Coyocacan. Tenochtitlan ~~largely~~ ^{was} ~~completely~~ ^{completely} destroyed and evacuated. The overpowering
stench of the countless dead and a great fear of
pestilence prevented any organized return for some months.

During that time there was much discussion on
whether the city should be rebuilt in its original
location with its problems of ^{ground} stability, water supply

and organization of labor.

At the first, ^{safe} opportunities the process of demolition continued as the island was divided into plots for resettling. Much of the debris was simply spread out over the land raising ^{the level of} certain parts of the city. Some of the canals were cleared but not nearly enough to ensure the ^{former} flow of lake waters ^{through the ~~city~~ land} during the rainy season, causing a ~~series~~ series of destructive floods.

It seems that in spite of the clearing of the city ^{Temple pyramids and} certain buildings or their partial remains could still be seen some decades after the conquest, but gradually even these disappeared leaving nothing of the former city still standing. All usable building material was recycled into new structures. When one sees a great Tlaltecuctli sculpture recarved ^{as} into the base of a ^{church} column and notices ^{how} carefully the indian stone worker carved around the principle parts of the sculpture to avoid an insult to the god and then puts that stone with the god on the bottom in precisely the same function that this god served in pagan times ~~the history~~ the insight into the survival of the indian religion deep into colonial times is clear and touching.

In deed Mexico City's unique situation insured that invisible though it may be much of its former self ~~foundation~~ serves to support the present city and that ^{without doubt} thousands of masterworks and countless foundations still lay beneath it almost any where one chooses to dig.

it had been necessary for the Spanish and their
allies to consolidate each gain ~~they~~ made by the
total demolition of each house and the filling
in of ^{each canal} the canals with the resulting debris.