

the Selden MSS. in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, a native figure is represented carrying a large univalve shell in his hand. He is barefooted, and dressed only in a short, spotted tunic, reaching to his loins. In his right hand he bears a spear, toothed round the blade,—it may be with inserted flints or points of obsidian,—while he holds the large shell in his left hand. A river which he is passing is represented by a greenish stripe winding obliquely across the drawing, and his track, as indicated by alternate footprints has previously crossed the same stream. On this trail he is followed by other figures nearly similarly dressed, but sandalled, and bearing spears and large fans; while a second group approaches the river by a different trail, and in an opposite direction to the shell-bearer. Other details of this curious fragment of pictorial history are less easily interpreted. An altar, or a temple, appears to be represented on one side of the stream; and a highly colored circular figure, like a shield, on the other, may be the epitomised symbol of some Achæan land or Sacred Elis of the New World. But whatever be adopted as the most trustworthy interpretation of the ancient hieroglyphic painting, its general correspondence with other migratory depictions is undoubted; and it is worthy of note, that, in some respects, the most prominent of all the figures is he who is represented as fording the stream, bearing one of the large tropical univalves in his hand.

The evidence which such a remarkable native record affords of an importance attached to the large sea shells of the Gulf of Mexico, among the most civilized of the American nations settled on its shores, is well deserving of notice; but the same class of tropical marine products acquire a new and still more important significance when they are met with among the relics pertaining to Indian tribes settled in the northern regions of this continent, some of them two to three thousand miles distant from the native habitat of the mollusca by which these coveted treasures of the ocean are produced, and separated by hundreds of miles from the nearest sea coast.

Tracing them along the northern route through the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, these shells have been found in the ancient graves of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana, and northward to the regions of the Great Lakes. Dr. Gerard Troost, in a communication to the American Ethnological Society,* has described a singularly

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