

past, we may trace amid the gloom of barbarian rule, the ancient existence of the Hindoo, Saxon, Dane, Hebrew, Roman, Greek, Phœnician, Egyptian, and in fine, the Antediluvian, in this so-called new world.

In conclusion, the antiquities of America extend from the eastern shores of Maine and Massachusetts to the Pacific, and from the great lakes and British dominions to Peru and La Plata; immense forests grow over the ruins of large cities, and the gigantic size of the trees prove the great age of the ruins, while the monumental history of Central America tell us that this is not a new world, and we awake with astonishment that in this country there was

once a great empire before David reigned over the twelve tribes of Israel, and the stumps of Cincinnati surpass in consequence the magnificent ruins of antiquity, because they are remnants of matter, in form and fashion, such as it was, before the earth perished by water, bearing on their respective tops the indubitable marks of the exertion of man, at so remote a period of time.

The reader, curious in these matters, is referred to the works of Messieurs Priest, Pidgeon and Davis, from whose interesting and valuable writings on American antiquities most of the foregoing notes were taken.

## Natural History Department.

### ANIMALS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

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#### CHAP. IV.

*The Dog and the Fox.—The Esquimaux, or Arctic Dog, its habits, &c., and facts relative to it recorded by Rue and Kane.—The Fox—its difference from the dog—habits—five American species—Anecdote of its cunning or "Foxiness."*

Of the American dog there are supposed to be eight species indigenous, though this is as yet an open question the wolf, the fox, and the jackal, being each claimed as the originator of the species, in different countries. The *Lagopus*, a native of Greenland and Spitzbergen, is supposed to be the true originator. In this animal, the Arctic dog, we find an illustration of the alteration of species in connection with civilization, not only in its variety of form but from the established fact, that the Esquimaux dogs had never been known to bark until they heard their domestic cousins which accompanied the discovery ships of Arctic expeditions giving tongue, and so by imitation, acquired the habit now as common to them as to our canine followers.

The conquest of the dog is the most complete, singular, and useful ever made from the animal kingdom by man. The whole species has become his property; each individual is devoted to his master; assumes his manners, knows and defends his property, and remains his true friend till death; and all this from the purest friendship, and even in spite of starvation and cruelty. Of all animals, this is the only one which has fol-

lowed man in every condition through all the regions of the globe, and been his defence against the prowling beasts of the forest and the desert. But as so much has been, and is continually being written on the subject, and as every one knows numerous anecdotes connected with this animal, we will confine ourselves strictly to the true American or Esquimaux dog:—He is large and powerful, equalling the mastiff in size; hair long and thick, tail long and bushy, and turned over the back; ears short, pointed, and erect. And here speaking of his tail being turned over his back, let us mention that the domestic dog is distinguished from all the other species of this tribe, by his *recurved* tail; this member in the others being straight. This is the dog which draws sleighs or sledges in Arctic phrase, and transports loads from place to place, with one or more persons in them, over the frozen snows. He is good tempered and very enduring, and though often cruelly treated, is still willing to do every thing in his power at the command of his master. What the camel is to the Arabians, and the reindeer to the Laplanders, the Esquimaux dog is to the inhabitants of the Arctic regions. These creatures seem designed to work in the harness, and hence it is said, perform their duty almost instinctively, requiring but little training or breaking in. The sledges are usually constructed for only