

indigenous to other countries only, are found growing in the western sections of the continent, among these are the Maize and garden Bean.

We draw from the various relics which have been mentioned, and others time will not permit us to refer to, that a great and powerful people, advanced in the arts and agriculture, and acquainted with the use of metals, held sway over this continent prior to the red Indians. Ruins of ancient Pueblos, remarkable for their construction and immense size, some of which were constructed on opposite sides of streams, and connected by bridges, are scattered over the country, south of the great plains of the west. The Configuration of the soil, the existence of river-beds, long since ceased to flow, whose banks, once gay with a tropical verdure, plants, flowers and trees, have now given place to deserts of sand, presenting everywhere a picture of desolation, so that Domenech and others who have explored these regions and written upon them, believe that at some indefinite period this whole territory was densely populated by a settled agricultural people, but who, by some great geological change, (perhaps volcanic) taking place in the country, changing the soil from a rich and fertile country, well watered, to a dry, barren, sandy desert, were compelled to seek a settlement elsewhere.

Domenech suggests that the great centres of this ancient civilization, was near the great lakes in Ohio, and in Mexico and Peru, whither the natives repaired to have commercial interchange with each other. This he gathers from the discoveries of mica sheets, from the Alleghanies, shells from the Gulf of Mexico and Florida, and Obsidian from the mountains of Mexico, and tools of copper, with specimens of ore from Lake Superior, which are found buried, together with ornaments of silver, brass, stone, and bone in the ancient mounds of the Ohio, and whose origin and history seems as impenetrable as the night of ages.

In the history of mankind, we have recognised the *age of rough stone implements*, or the *age of primitive barbarism*. The *age of polished stone implements*, or the dawn of civilization, the *age of copper tools*, the *age of brass ornaments and tools*, and the *modern or iron age* in which we live. To one of these ages every relic of the past belongs. Those found in America, represent the three first ages, or those of rude and polished stone and the age of copper.

If it be granted that relics of a past civilization exist in the continent, which, no one will deny, then it becomes a matter of interest to enquire whether among the ancient traditions of America or the writings and mythologies of the old world, any traces can be discovered of an acquaintance with this

continent among the people of the other hemisphere.

Inquirers of the greatest care and intelligence believe that communication between the two hemispheres, did exist at a very remote period. Evidence of this they discover in the ruins to which we have referred, and the traditions of ancient America, as well as in the traditions and myths of classical antiquity.

The antiquities of Mexico and Central America, reveal religious symbols, devices, and ideas nearly identical with those found in all countries of the old world, where cushite communities formerly existed. They exhibit evidences of planet worship, with its usual orphic and phallic accompaniments. Humbolt visited America, observed these remains of civilization, and was convinced that communication with the old world formerly existed. The Abbe Domenech also traversed the desert wilds of America and Mexico, and produced two volumes as the results of his discoveries, abounding with evidences of an extinct civilization.

Humbolt found evidences of it in the religious symbols, the architecture, the hieroglyphics, and the social customs made manifest among the ruins; which he was sure came from across the seas, and in his view, the date of this communication was older than the present division of Asia into Chinese, Mongols, or Tartars, and Hindoos (natives of India). [*Vide Researches concerning the institutions and monuments of the ancient people of America.*]

The high state of agriculture, mechanical art, commerce, the profusion of gold and copper, and the religious views and domestic manners which were found to exist among the long since extinct Aztec and Zeczucon peoples, found in possession of the eastern shores of Mexico by the rapacious Spaniards are suggestive of a long period of peaceful possession and prosperity in that country, during which time they had succeeded in surrounding themselves with every conceivable kind of luxury; and there are traces of a superior civilization even beyond the Aztecs. They possessed a system of numerals, and divided their years into 18 months of 20 days each—five complimentary days (as in Egypt) being added to make up the full number of 365 days.—They were also devoted astrologers, and their knowledge of astronomy is truly astonishing. They used the sun dial to mark the day, which was divided into 16 parts, commencing at sunrise. An immense circular block of carved stone, disinterred in 1790, in the great square of Mexico, has supplied the means of establishing some interesting facts in regard to Mexican science. This colossal fragment, on which the calendar is engraved, shows that they had the means of settling the hours of the day with precision, the periods of the