

the Atlantis of old authors, which he supposes to have formerly united Western Europe to Greenland and Labrador—a supposition which was shared by Brinton—and Behring Straits or the Aleutian islands. This hypothesis, he claims, explains the long-headed tribes of the East and the Mongoloid peoples of the West.¹

Louis Figuier is not so positive in his *Human Race*. He frankly admits that, in his estimation, "the original race which has peopled the Western Hemisphere is almost impossible to be traced".² This is practically the opinion of Father Venegas in his work on early California which is now almost a classic.³

Other authors favoured the supposition of a Scandinavian immigration to America, and some investigators have even seen in particular tribes of that continent descendants of the Welsh, the Scotch and the Irish, while others trace them to the Canaanites of old!

The Welsh origin of some American tribes is derived from the declarations of supposedly veracious travellers, like, for instance, a Capt. Isaac Stuart who, in 1782, asserted that he had, in company with a Welshman named John Davey, fallen in with a tribe of Indians of rather white complexion, whose habitat was the valley of a small river which emptied itself into the Red River, and whose language his companion understood without having ever learned it. According to said Capt. Stuart, those Indians claimed that their ancestors had come from a foreign country and landed on what is now called West Florida. They showed, he says, as evidence of their contention rolls of parchment the characters of which Stuart could not read, any more than his Welsh companion who was perfectly illiterate.

Other so-called white races have been reported found "a very considerable distance from New Orleans, whose inhabitants were of different complexions, not so tawny as those of the other Indians and who spoke Welsh".⁴ But no such Indians are known to exist in our times, and the presumption is that those above referred to are not any more real than the various nations and personages mentioned in the Book of Mormon, despite the fact that the famous Indian artist Catlin would fain see in the now extinct Mandans a Welsh colony established by Prince Madoc.⁵

¹ "Ethnology", p. 362; Cambridge, 1909.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 406; London, 1872.

³ "History of California", p. 60, first published in Spanish at Madrid in 1758.

⁴ S. G. Drake, "The Aboriginal Races of North America", p. 53; New York, 1880.

⁵ "Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Condition of the North American Indians", Vol. II, Appendix A; Philadelphia, 1859.