

and other grotesques of the Chinese and Japanese; and when we find further that the Aztec calendar was constructed on the same principle as the Mongolian, the suspicion that the one was derived from the other becomes almost a certainty. 'A correspondence quite as extraordinary,' writes Mr. Prescott ('Conquest of Mexico,' p. 466), 'is found between the hieroglyphs used by the Aztecs for the signs of the days, and those zodiacal signs which the Eastern Asiatics employed as one of the terms of their series. The symbols in the Mongolian calendar are borrowed from animals. Four of the twelve are the same as the Aztec. Three others are as nearly the same as the different species of animals in the two hemispheres would allow. The remaining five refer to no creature then found in Anahuac. The resemblance went as far as it could. The similarity of these conventional symbols among the several nations of the East can hardly fail to carry conviction of a common origin for the system as regards them. Why should not a similar conclusion be applied to the Aztec calendar, which, although relating to days instead of years, was, like the Asiatic, equally appropriated to chronological uses and to those of divination?'

It would be absurd to suppose that two uncivilised peoples could devise such artificial and cumbrous* methods of dividing time without some intercourse with each other. Such a supposition would push Mr. Buckle's theory of civilisation to the verge of the ridiculous. It is very hard in a great many cases to define what are the results of environment, pure and simple, from those manners and customs which have been inherited; in this case, however, where a scientific method is concerned, we are driven to believe that the civilisations of Asia and America were connected in remote times. It is very improbable that this knowledge could have been introduced alone without some of the other arts having been brought along with it. We feel, therefore, inclined to hold with Humboldt that the civilisation was to some extent imported from Asia. The Japanese current, as we have already remarked, sweeps straight across the Pacific, and would easily convey vessels from the shores of Japan and China to Southern California and the shores of Mexico. To that daring race which has peopled Polynesia such a current would offer a comparatively easy highway.

The traditions of the ancient civilised peoples of America point towards the view which we have arrived at from an

* See Tylor, 'Anahuac,' 237-41.