

This song was discovered, it is said, in 1590, by Ibanez de Iberguen, and first published in 1817 by W. von Humboldt in "Mithridates." M. Jules Vinson does not believe that the song above translated is of an earlier date than the sixteenth century. The earliest extant specimens of the Basque language do not, in his opinion, take us further back than the fifteenth century. In poetic merit the foregoing effusion may be compared with some of the songs in Dr. Brinton's "Ancient Nahuatl Poetry." It might also be matched by productions attributed to our own Northern Indians. Whether such productions are the unaided offspring of the aboriginal muse, I cannot affirm with confidence.

I have already cited certain hints rather than express assertions to the intent that some of the latter and the Basque may have descended from common forefathers. Such a theory implies either intercourse in remote times between both sides of the Atlantic or some catastrophe such as that of which the Atlantis legend is supposed to preserve the tradition. Prof. Alexander Winchell, in his remarkable work, "Preadamites," would uphold the existence in prehistoric ages, not merely of Atlantis, but of a still more primitive continent in the Indian Ocean. His hypothesis is that the original abode of mankind was a region covering the site of the islands of Mauritius and Reunion and the surrounding waters, to which has been given the imaginary name of "Lemuria." If we were disposed to be satirical, we might attribute this name to the ghostly and unsubstantial nature of the theory which invented it. It is, however, not in Roman mythology, but in zoology that we must look for its derivation. The Lemuridae, a group of lowly organized and very ancient creatures—though still discoverable over a wide area—exist nowhere else in so great abundance as in the island of Madagascar. On this fact and on certain peculiarities in the bird fauna of that island, Dr. Hartlaub and other naturalists have based the theory of a Lemurian continent. Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, though he does not recognize the necessity for such a continent, admits the possibility of the former existence of several large islands between Madagascar and India. Prof. Winchell, however, accepts Lemuria as, at least, probable, and in his chart of the gradual dispersion of mankind, he makes it his starting-point. One branch of the prehistoric pre-Mongoloids he supposes to have traversed Northern Africa as far as the ocean, where a portion of it crossed into Europe by what was then an isthmus. They found a paradisiacal peninsula south of the Pyrenees and retained it long as a favorite centre of population, founding there an "Iberian Empire." The remainder of those Mongolians made their way to Atlantis, to the actual existence of which, Dr. Winchell says, recent explorations, including the soundings of the *Challenger*, the *Gettysburg* and the *Gazelle*, representing England, the United States and Germany, respectively, have given substance and reality. "During the historic period", writes Prof. Winchell, "the isolated Canaries have stood as the only inhabited remnants of Atlantis; and the detached and degenerate Guanches, when at length rediscovered, complained: 'God placed us on these islands and then forsook and forgot us.'" Two years after the publication of "Preadamites" appeared Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's "Atlantis: the Antediluvian world" a work whose sweeping statements and wild comparisons of unrelated races and languages have tended, among men of science, to discredit rather than to commend the theory. At the same time, it revived discussion on a question which many persons had imagined to be set at rest for ever, and elicited from various pens whatever could be said on one side or the other in the controversy. Shortly before its appearance, Mr. R. W. Boodle, in the *Educational Record* of the Province