

and christianized ? and yet they settled among numerous and well policed populations, and were every where surrounded with monuments of art, scientific inventions, and all the products of genius and skill that had then existed. If, instead of this, they had found a wilderness to rove in, inhabited by wild animals only, how soon would they have raised themselves from the abyss of their degradation ?

We know that central America was once the seat of civilization : the relics of cities that once stood proudly on the table lands of Mexico, reveal this fact ; but when and by whom they were built, and how long they existed, are questions still unanswered. But taking into account the evidence and probabilities in the case, we must believe that the aborigines of the New World had their origin in the Old ; that those of North America coming from the deserts of Tartary, were a people distinct from those who had reared the monuments and cities on the plains of Mexico ; and that the latter had been subjugated by the former, and if not exterminated, by becoming assimilated with them, had relapsed into barbarism. It would be impossible to conceive in reality, of a greater similitude between two peoples, separated so long in time and so far removed in space, than we find between the American savages and Asiatic Tartars.

At the present day, we are made aware of the influence of climate upon the physical nature of man ; how it modifies his manners, his morals, and even the