

"across, Donnelly's book, 'Atlantic,' was considered to indicate the only possible solution of the Ancient Mexican civilization question. A conceited young New York Professor, who had never put his nose beyond Boston and Washington, and had probably never looked twice at a bit of Aztec pottery, pooh-poohed Donnelly and his theory of a buried continent called Atlantis, which, with its related islands, was, he conceived, formerly the great highway between Africa and America. Of such a continent the Azores and Canaries are supposed to be still extant peaks. This theory is neither dead nor buried yet. I trust more to the impressions of those who have examined Mexican antiquities, let alone my own eyes, than to slapdash statements of sucking Professors. Those who have been to Mexico are mostly unanimous in the conviction that the mysterious people who built these strange cities (the number of which is unknown), were colonists from Africa, and brought with them something akin to Egyptian Art and Civilization. Not only is there the same delight in massiveness, the same science in raising huge blocks of stone, the same solidity and magnificence in what are presumed to be the burial places of the Kings; but such undecipherable written characters as have been found as yet bear a strong resemblance to Egyptian hieroglyphics. Perhaps they represent a still older form of the most ancient symbols known to us. But there is one feature about the Aztec relics which appeals with dumb but persuasive eloquence to the most casual observer, and seems to proclaim aloud the African and even Egyptian origin of the deserted cities. Jug after jug comes up, decorated with the same familiar face, the straight, strong nose, the square, wide brow, the almond-shaped eyes, the hair dressed flat and low down on either side of the high cheek-bone. It is the face of 'The Sphinx.' Any notion of Mongolian or Asiatic origin seems knocked on the head. I cannot find a trace, as far as I can gather such traces, either in the buildings, written characters or art work decorations of the deserted cities of Mongol or Asiatic influence."