

Holy Mass, some of their successors celebrate the Lord's Supper with pure water in which dried raisins have been soaked for twenty-four hours."

The barbarous admixture of cruelty and licentiousness with which many of the Christian practices mentioned above were stained, was the natural outcome of the death or dispersion of the first preachers of the Gospel, which was followed by the gradual relapse of the natives into their heathenish customs.

Impressed as they were by the presence on our continent of such numerous vestiges of Christian civilization, the early Spanish discoverers cast about for the causes of them. Several of the learned men of the time, unable to imagine how Christian missionaries could have preceded the Spaniards in the evangelization of these ancient tribes, ascribed the introduction of these Christian practices to the work of the Devil. This theory, however, is generally rejected as contrary to common sense, for as Dr. deMier truiy says: "The enemy of the Gospel is not so stupid as to prepare the human minds to receive it, by making them believe its highest mysteries. Such ridiculous explanations only finish proving that the facts are undeniable."

Real historical causes should be found in order to account for the presence of Christian faith and Christian rites in ancient America,—and where else can we find the origin of ancient American Christianity but in the fact of some immigration to our continent from some Christian country, or at least of the arrival of a few men who may have planted here the seeds of Christianity.

Nothing then remains but to ascertain whether such Christian immigrations were from the East or the West—from Asia or Europe. However, as it is not within the scope of the present article to rummage the pages of history for traces of the country from which these immigrations proceeded, suffice it to say that the reader will be amply rewarded who will follow the learned Father de Roo, in his search through the lanes and by-ways of history for the solution of the difficulty, and if there be a drop of Celtic blood in his veins, he will feel the keenest pleasure and pride upon observing that same acute historian, after a most minute and rigid analysis of all the historical evidence bearing on the case, finally