

shape and ornament with the earlier specimens of Egyptian and Etrurian pottery, have been found in their sepulchral excavations. Roads have been found, composed of large square blocks of red stones, like the Roman military roads. Bridges, of an excellent construction and materials, have also been discovered. In short, every discovery, which has been made relative to them, demonstrate them to have been a highly cultivated and superior race of men. But the people themselves have been entirely swept away; no remains of them have been discovered in all the length and breadth of the land.*

All the nations of the earth have sprung from one parent stock; but from what immediate branch the North American Indians are derived, is impossible exactly to ascertain.

There is a fancy which has been entertained by various authors, of their having sprung from the tribes of Israel. Much ingenious reasoning has been employed to establish this opinion. This is attempted from various similarities of language, manners, customs, &c. Various writers have engaged on this subject; but James Adair, an Englishman, who resided among the Indians for 40 years, has examined the matter most closely, and has collected a great number of facts bearing on the subject. He supposed that he discovered many points of resemblance between the two people. "He compares them under the following heads:—Divisions into tribes—worship of Jehovah—notions of theocracy—belief in the ministry of angels—language and dialect—manner of counting time—prophets and high priests—festivals, fasts, and daily sacrifices—ablutions and anointings—laws for uncleanness—abstinence from unclean things—marriages, divorces, and punishments for adultery—civil punishments—cities of refuge—purification, and ceremonies preparatory to war—ornaments—manner of curing the sick—burial of the dead—raising seed to a

* For an account of these discoveries see Stephens's *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*, &c.