

transportation, yet in North America the dog had been trained into an effective ally, and in the Andes the llama performed a similar office. Insignificant as was the use of the dog as a carrier, its employment cannot well be overestimated as a step in progress when it is remembered that the plain's tribes that most employed it lived in the midst of the buffalo, an animal which must have become of prime domestic importance in the never-to-be-enacted future of the Indian.

The need of some method of recording events and communicating ideas had been felt and had given rise, even among the ruder tribes, to picture-writing, which in Mexico and Central America had been so far developed into ideographs, popularly called hieroglyphics, as to hint strongly at the next stage, the invention of a true phonetic alphabet; nay more, the Mexicans and Mayas are believed to have reached a stage of true phonetic writing, where characters were made to represent not things, as true ideographic writing, but the names of things and even of abstract ideas; and this is a stage which may be said to be on the very threshold of one of the proudest achievements of civilization, that of a phonetic alphabet.

Instead of living in an unorganized state, where each man was a law unto himself in all things, the Indians lived under organized forms of government, rude enough indeed when compared with the highly organized system of civilized nations, but marking an essential advance on the conditions attained by savage peoples in other parts of the world. The chieftaincy was transmitted by well-understood laws or, as in some tribes, was more purely elective. Their social system was very ingenious and complex, and, being based largely upon kinship ties, was singularly well fitted for the state to which they had attained, of which indeed it was simply an expression and outgrowth. In many sections a considerable advance had been made in political confederation, and neighboring tribes combined for defense and to wage war against a common enemy. They had invented many and singularly efficient laws to repress and punish lawlessness against the individual and the social body, and as a consequence they enjoyed almost entire immunity from theft and many other crimes.

The development of religious ideas among our Indians is a curious and instructive study. Though the Great Spirit and the Happy Hunting Ground which missionaries and theologians thought they had discovered among them are now known to have had no existence, the Indians had by no means reached the state of culture in

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