

the inhabitants, to which every year, they repair to make their offerings to the spirit of the springs. In the country of the Zuni, one of these is still found; it is seven or eight yards in circumference, and surrounded by a low circular wall. The water is withdrawn once a year, when offerings of varnished pottery are placed upon the wall, there to remain until they fall by accident or time, hence here are to be seen specimens of pottery of great antiquity. They have a tradition that any one attempting to steal one of these offerings would be punished by instantaneous destruction. It is well known that the worship of wells and springs is of Oriental origin and of the highest antiquity, for not only was it practised by the worshippers of Baal, by the Scythians and their descendants, but also by the Chinese, Hindoos, Moors, Persians, Mahomedans, Egyptians, Jews and Celtic populations of Ireland and Scotland, where these objects of a veneration which had a deep hold upon all the ancient Celtic people, were usually situated in the most picturesque spots, on the slopes or hills shaded by pines and venerable oaks, amidst rocks covered with heaths, in retreats difficult of access, and above all in the vicinity of an ancient oak, or upright unhewn stone, and in dark and mysterious solitudes where the breeze and the rivulets murmur incessantly, and where the voice of man finds a faithful echo, always ready to make nature resound with the songs and praises, inspired by the piety of the people.

In England, the druids practised this worship, and under the reigns of Canu and Edgar, edicts were promulgated against those who venerated these "Sacred Wells;" while in the Scandinavian manuscript it is related that in the tenth Century a schism arose among the *Americans*, some of whom were accused of despising the "sacred well of vagarsoriebat. It is, we think, of the greatest significance, that a worship so ancient and so general in the old world as that of springs, wells and fountains should have been found to exist in the new. In these times people existed who believed that there were spirits who presided over these fountains, rivers and springs, and that these spirits were invisible and hovered around them, and received with pleasure the offerings made to them by men, either as thanksgiving or propitiation.

#### IDOLS AND SHELLS OF TENNESSEE.

I will now turn to a consideration of certain idols, shells, pottery and ancient mummies found in the mounds and caves of Tennessee, which seem to point to an Asiatic or Pelasgian origin. In reference to these remains, the Abbe Domenech writes, "a knowledge of Chonology is by no means unimportant in the study of the origin of the first inhabitants of North America, since it appears that they employed large marine

shells for their personal use and for their sacrifices."

The tumuli found in the valleys of the great rivers and the fortified ruins contain a great number of these shells which are mostly of the species known as *murex*; *Cassis Cornutus*; and *Fulgar Perversus*; as also sometimes shells of the species *Maginella Florida* which is very common on the coasts of Florida.

These shells have formed the subject of long discussions among Ethnographers: who are not agreed as to their origin—According to Rumphius the "*Cassis Cornutus*" is found at Amboyna, in the peninsula of Malacca, and on the neighboring shores, Linnæus believed it to be indigenous to the American coast, but ruguieres (a more modern writer) believes Linnæus mistaken and that the shell in question belongs to the Asiatic ocean, while Humphreys maintains that it is peculiar to the East Indies, and China. It is never found on the coasts of America, and it is highly probable that it was brought to America from Asia.

#### IDOLS.

The Idols found in some of the ruins are also believed to be of Asiatic origin, of which perhaps the most curious have also been found in the state of Tennessee, one of these was found enclosed in a small shell of the species "*Cassis flammea*" which is of tropical origin, the others are without shells, and either seated upon their heels or kneeling, the hands being upon the thighs or abdomen, they are naked, and represent different sexes, the largest is about 14 inches in length, they are cut in a stone common to the country. One of the professors of the university of Tennessee is of opinion that all these idols were representations of the ancient Phallic worship, and were similar to those *exposed* in the temples of Eluesis. We are assured, (on the authority of Cortez) that an ancient Egyptian form of worship, recalling the mysteries of Isis and Osiris, was found by the Spaniards established in America. One of these idols appeared to be a badly finished image of the God Priapus. Some are made of a mixture of clay and pounded marine shells, and are easily recognised as a representation of the Tartar type of feature, in the form of the face and the elongated nose and chin. One resembles the broad round face of the Chinese and has a tuft on the vertex representing the scalp tuft of the Chinaman. The Asiatic type is also seen in a small stone idol found at Natchez, in the state of Mississippi, on the site of an ancient temple, which tradition says existed long before the arrival of the Europeans, while pipes of extraordinary workmanship have been found at a great depth in Ohio.

#### MUMMIES.

The existence of American mummies