

woven with the religious system and historical chronology of the Egyptians, abundantly prove the correction of the Egyptian Calendar by accumulated experience, at a date long anterior to the resort of the Greek astronomer, Thales, to Egypt. At the close of the fifteenth century, the Aztecs had learned to correct their calendar to solar time; but their cycle was one of only fifty two years. The Peruvians also had their recurrent religious festivals connected with the adjustment of their sacred calendar to solar time; but the geographical position of Peru, with Quito, its holy city, lying immediately under the equator, greatly simplified the process by which they regulated their religious festivals by the solstices and equinoxes; and the facilities which their equatorial position afforded for determining the few indispensable periods in their calendar removed all stimulus to further progress. The religion of the state, moreover, was based on the divine honours paid to the sun; eclipses were regarded with the same superstitions dread as among the rudest savage nations; and the conservatism of an established national creed must have proved peculiarly unfavorable to astronomical science. The impediments to Galileo's observations were trifling compared with those which must have beset the Inca priest who ventured to question the diurnal revolution of the sun round the earth; or to solve the awful mystery of an eclipse by so simple an explanation as the interposition of the moon between the sun and the earth. The Mexican Calendar Stone embodies evidence of greater knowledge; and was believed by Humboldt to indicate unmistakable relations to the ancient science of South-Eastern Asia. It is of more importance here to note the shortness of the Mexican cycle, and the small amount of error in their deviation from true solar time, as compared with the European calendar at the time when the Spaniards first intruded on Montezuma's rule. That the Spaniards were ten days in error, as compared with the Aztec reckoning, only proves the length of time during which error had been accumulating in the reformed Julian calendar of Europe; and so tends to confirm the idea that the civilisation of the Mexicans was of no very great antiquity. The whole evidence supplied by Northern archaeology proves that in so far as that civilisation was of foreign origin, they must have derived it from the South, where alike in Central and in Southern America, diverse races, and a native civilisation replete with elements of progress, have left behind them many enduring memorials of skill and ingenuity. But the extremely slight and very partial traces of its influence on any people of the Northern continent would of its self suffice to awaken doubts as to its long duration. The civilisation of Greece and Rome did indeed exercise no direct influence on transalpine Europe; but long centuries before the Romans crossed the Alps, as the disclosures of the lake villages, the crannoges, the kitchen middens, and the sepulchral mounds of Central and Northern Europe prove, the nations beyond their ken were familiar with weaving, and with the ceramic and metallurgic arts; were far advanced as agriculturists, had domesticated animals, acquired systems of phonetic writing, and learned the value of a currency of the precious metals.

Midway between North America with its unredeemed barbarism, and the southern seats of a native American civilisation, Mexico represents, as I believe, the first contact of the latter with the former. A gleam of light was just beginning to dawn on the horizon of the Northern continent. The long night of its Dark Ages was coming to a close, when the intrusion of the Spaniards abruptly arrested the incipient civilization; and began the displacement of its aborigines and the repetition of the Aryan

technical revolution of Europe.

The pulchre, devoted valley, gave time, indeed records, and zation of the and Welsh interest; but American people already been appearance, arts of a store of Lake Superior all the century and employed

The close of the in its archæology of is seen in the needed the Euphrates a lands, the g predatory trade and from the contrary, peninsulas advantages in Portugal youth from safely passed

All the contrast to solved; was similar to the settled down emerging was long culture, the stone, masonry, potter were the shores the nations had