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To return to the Babel which has been unwittingly built up by the students of the fascinating question of the Indians' origin. Incongruous as are the component parts of that edifice, if we study them closely, we may properly reduce them to a certain number of classes. There is, in the first place, the theory of the Jewish origin of our Indians, a theory which has captivated many minds and according to which the natives of this continent are none others than the lost tribes of Israel. Though rather ancient, the tribe of those who embraced that opinion is neither lost nor extinct. It counted ardent and able advocates such as Thomas Thorowgood, Kingsborough, Garcia, Mrs. Simon, James Adair, Israel Worsley, E. Howitt, Dr. Boudinot, Lafitau as regards the Hurons and, in our own days, Father E. Petitot, who seems in this connection of such undoubting faith that he has gone to the length of altering the national name of the stock called Athapaskan by the Smithsonian Institution from Déné, its true designation, into Danite, after one of the Jewish tribes.

This opinion is combatted by James Kennedy, who closes an able paper on the "Question of the supposed Lost Tribes of Israel" by declaring that "the supposition of there being any people now existing as a separate people representing the ten tribes is a groundless hallucination, unworthy of the times in which it has obtained so extensive a credence."

Then there is the Chinese theory, which had earnest defenders in De Guignes, Foster, Du Pratz and the great Humboldt.

The former hypothesis rests mostly on the customs of the American aborigines—especially those of their women; the latter, on their physical appearance as well as on minute fragments of Asiatic history.

A third opinion, which is chiefly based on the same physical analogies, and also on well-authenticated arrivals in America due to the action of the sea currents, would fain see at least in the northwestern Coast tribes relics from the land of Nippon. De Quatrefages, a Mr. Brooks, Viollet-le-Duc and others have perhaps been its ablest exponents.

The Tatars have also been referred to by many as the progenitors of our Indians, in common with the Egyptians and the Tyrians of old. George Jones has been the foremost supporter of the claims of the last named nation in his *History of Ancient America*,¹ but this opinion has been shared by Ledyard and many others. Alexandre Lenoir compares the ancient monuments of the Mexicans with those of Egypt, India, and the rest of the world.

¹ London, 1843.