

In the writer's opinion the highest manifestations of art are found in the department of religion. Some have brought forth, as arguments to prove the unity of the race, the similarity of their architecture, pottery and stone implements, their language and various habits, but religious belief and ceremonies are more deeply seated in the human mind than any other customs.

Those who have attempted to civilise the heathen have found them much more willing to adopt the manners and customs of civilised nations which have reference to food, clothing, architecture, ornament, implements of common use and war, and even social, governmental, and educational customs, than those which have reference to their religion. It is but natural, hence, to suppose that among the savages their religious ideas have changed less than the others, and that, if there are any customs which become "infallible guides in tracing national affinities," these are the ones.

When America was discovered it was peopled by an unknown race. When and how they came here, and from where they came, are questions which are not satisfactorily answered. There are not a few persons, who have become distinguished as scholars, who have maintained that they never came to America, but that they were created or developed (according to the theory which they hold) on this continent, and that the words of the Bible are not true, when it says that "God hath made of one blood all nations to dwell on the face of the earth."

It is the object of the present paper to examine the religions of these natives, to compare them with those of the rest of the world, especially with that of the Bible, and to see if there is not here an argument in favour of the unity of the race, as well as to sustain various parts of the Bible.

True, if a stranger were to go among the Indians, and for the first time hear the noise and see the incantations of their religious ceremonies, he would be likely to say that there is nothing like it in all the world, and that Solomon was slightly mistaken when he said that there is nothing new under the sun; that rather, if he had come to America, he would have changed his mind. To the writer, at least, it appeared so at first.

But a more careful view of the subject has entirely changed his opinions, and has led him to believe that Solomon was right. It is probable that he even saw more of savage incantations than a large share of the human race.

Not only does this seem to be true, but the principles of their religion, when stripped of their outside ceremonies, their