

## TESTIMONY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY SCHOLARS.

Professor R. F. Scharff, member of the Anthropological Society of Paris, after years of study of the faunal life of Europe and America, proves that, at some time in the past, America and Europe must have been united by land. He writes: "That such a land connection must have existed in *recent geological times* I do not doubt. The snail must have slowly wandered during a long series of centuries from the old world to the new by means of an ancient north Atlantic bridge."\* He maintains that "all the deer in South America have originated from one or more ancestors which invaded that continent from West Europe in tertiary times," that the zoological affinity between Europe and North America is so strong that nothing short of a wide and convenient land bridge, with lakes, rivers, and mountains, will suffice to explain the meaning of certain paleontological facts. On page 153 he makes this bold statement: "What I wish to make clear is that huge creatures, requiring an abundance of vegetable food, must have poured into America in the era of mammals and leaf forests." In support of his claim for a submerged continent he summons as witnesses the naturalists, Dr. E. S. Morse and Professors Winkley and Cockerell. To these eminent names may be added that of C. W. Johnson, who, on page 73 of his latest work, "*Distribution of Helix Hortensis*," is of Scharff's opinion. Scharff, furthermore, adds that the seeds of anemones and other plants could not have found their way to America by the Bering Strait, but that "they came by migration from Europe to North America by a great land bridge," and that nothing short of a wide and convenient land connection between America and Europe will suffice to explain the existence of ganoid fishes in the Mississippi basin.

Professor Pilsbry, who, in his earlier writings, opposed the claims of those who contended for an Atlantic continent, now admits in his "*Manual of Conchology*" that Africa and South America were in remote times united by a land which has disappeared. Not only that, but many of those who believed in the immutability of an Atlantic basin, have, after a careful study of the zoogeography of America, changed their views and now admit the absolute necessity of a land bridge. Among these learned men are included Mr. Andrew Murray, who in his work on the "*Coleoptera of Old Calibar*" (p. 450), tells us the islands of St. Paul, St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha, are the wrecks and ruins of a submerged continent; Dr. A. E. Brown, "*American Big Game*" (p. 87); N. J. Krishtafovitch, "*La Dernière Période Glaciaire*" (p. 293); Dr. F. Mighl, "*Greenland Ice Fields*" (p. 12), and J. L. Lohley, "*American Fauna and Its Origin*" (p. 23), all plead for a lost continent. If it be admitted that animal life made its first appearance in the old world, and that the fresh-water fish in our far inland lakes and rivers, the snakes and reptiles in our great inland forests, the mammals, the bear, bison, moose and reindeer, were found everywhere in North America one hundred years ago, then, as a corollary, the existence of a land with rivers, lakes, and mountains, between the old world and the new, must be conceded.

Even that close reasoner and scientist, Professor Lydker, contends that only by a land bridge (Atlantis) across the Atlantic could the ancestors of the Santa Crucian Polyprotodont reach this continent.†

If it can be proved, and we think it can, that this great and wide causeway between Europe, Africa, and America, was inhabited by members of the human race, then the "Origin of the American Indian" ceases to be a problem baffling solution.

\* "*Distribution and Origin of Life in America*," p. 14. Constable & Co., London.

† *Geological History of Mammals*, p. 112.