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## THE INDIANS OF AMERICA: THEIR CURIOUS CUSTOMS, WEIRD WAYS, AND STRANGE SUPERSTITIONS.\*

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

Fact often outruns fiction in novelty and romantic interest. The aboriginal tribes of this Western Hemisphere bear study. No people on earth are so reticent and reserved. Beneath an exterior imperturbably placid, features that never betray changing emotions and are almost frigidly rigid, they hide even from acute observers their inner secrets; and their whole personal and social life is a veiled chamber of mystery, behind whose curtain very few outsiders ever penetrate to the arcana.

A book has recently appeared which will be to most readers a revelation, not only of marvellous "wonders of the world" to be found within the Continent of North America, but of unsuspected mysteries of Indian life and character. Its author has spent years in Isleta, New Mexico, Arizona, and other parts of the Southwest, living among this comparatively unknown people, studying with rare penetration and patience their curious and occult history and habits. He has not contented himself with any superficial glance or hasty impressions, but seems to have persevered in cultivating such friendly and intimate relations, and in gathering such trustworthy information as might serve to supplement his own keen observation, and enable him to reveal to the general reader, more fully than we have ever before seen, the real life of these "native" Americans. From his fascinating book we cull a few facts which especially bear upon Indian notions of religion, etc.

The somewhat amazing disclosures of Mr. Lummis have to do particularly with the Pueblo cities of Moqui, well into the edge of the Arizona Desert, and remote from civilization and Spanish influence, like the inaccessible *mesas* on which they are built.

\*Some Strange Corners of Our Country. By Charles F. Lummis. New York: Century Company, 1892. The author cautions the writer of this article and his readers, to "discriminate carefully between the classes of Indians mentioned in 'Strange Corners.' The Pueblos, of course, are Christians, and very earnest ones, though superstitious."