

and civilization of which the remains cover these solitudes of America, merely because their successors have less genius, energy, or enterprise.

"The Zunis and other tribes still dwell in pueblos similar to those we have described; and it is probable that to their ancestors the construction of these gigantic edifices ought to be attributed."

By the extracts here given, it will be seen that the origin of these extensive and really wonderful ruins found scattered broadcast, as it were, throughout this most marvellous country, is still a question of much doubt. No data exists among the archives of New Mexico calculated to throw any light upon the subject; all the records of the Territory preceding the year 1680 were destroyed by the Indians in their successful insurrection against the conquerors in that year; and it was not until 1695, that the Spaniards again occupied the country, although in 1692 Curro Diego de Bargas Zapata managed with a large force to penetrate as far as the pueblo of Zuni, but finding the Indians too numerous for him to retain possession of it, was obliged to again return to El Paso.

During my residence in the Territory, I spent much time in endeavoring to ascertain something more definite concerning the builders of these ruins and their fate than was afforded by the very meagre knowledge to be derived from people who were residents of the Territory; but so few persons had