

WHAT TIME HAS LEFT US.

The existence and disappearance of the continent has ceased to be one of the romances of the world, and now, in its vastness and greatness, takes its place among the certainties of the remote past. The examinations made, the facts recorded by Professor Carl Gagel, and the discoveries made by the French paleontologist, M. Pitard, go far to prove that a great continent at one time existed in the eastern half of the Atlantic Ocean, and that the islands of the Azores, the Cape Verde and Canary Islands, are the remains of the submerged land. Herr Gagel, one of the most eminent oceanic students of Europe, proves that the volcanic coverings of all these islands have under them more ancient strata such as would constitute the base of a continent.

M. Pitard found in the Canaries undoubted cretaceous or chalk deposits, and borings in the Cape Verde islands have shown sedimentary strata under the volcanic rocks. It is probable that the disappearance of Atlantis occurred much later than the cretaceous period, for on some of the Atlantic islands—the remains of the continent—species of animals and families of plants were found belonging to the pleistocene age, when man was on the earth.*

Even in the Pacific Ocean a great body of land must have, at one time, existed, leaving many islands to confirm its disappearance. Of this, that hard-headed and practical navigator, Captain W. J. J. Spry, of the *Challenger*, entertains no doubt, for he says: "Before the Deluge, in the Pacific Ocean, was a continent occupied by a race of human beings in a high state of civilization. In New Caledonia the remains of an ancient city, with paved roads and an aqueduct, have been found. In the Marquesas, the Navigators, Carolines and Ladrões, many gigantic ancient ruins have been brought to light."†

The wonderful archaeological remains of Easter Island, South Pacific; the immense platforms formed of large stones, some of which weigh five tons; sea walls two hundred feet long and nearly thirty high, and colossal statues of lava-stone, thirty feet high, testify to the existence, in the past, of a race of human beings superior in education and intellect to the Polynesians and Malays who peopled the islands long after them, and who knew nothing of the men who raised these memorials. When Mr. Scoresby Routledge, who had passed sixteen months on Easter Island, arrived in England, June 24, 1916, he informed the members of the Royal Geographical Society that: "The many stone statues strewn about the interior of the island, which have heretofore been supposed to have been abandoned in their present locations while being transported from the platforms or terraces along the coast, were actually arranged *along former roadways*, and were evidently intended to remain where they now are."

We have no reason to doubt the accuracy of Mr. Routledge's statement, which goes to prove the advanced civilization of the ancient inhabitants of the island.‡

* The words *Atlas* and *Atlantic* cannot be traced to any language known to Europe. Their origin and etymology are a mystery. The Mexico-Spanish historian, Molina, says, in his "Vocabulary of Mexican Words," "That from the radicals *a, atle*, is derived the word *Atlan*, meaning, in the *Nahuatl* language, on the border or in the middle of water, and from which comes our adjective *Atlantic*. A town called *Atlan*, with a good harbour, stood at the entrance to the Bay of Darien, when Columbus first visited the land.

† "The Cruise of H.M.S. *Challenger*," W. J. J. Spry, R.N., F.R.G.S., p. 208.

‡ The island has an area of about fifty square miles, is 2,300 miles west of the coast of Chili. The famous stone images at Rongorongoa, Easter Island, the gigantic statues referred to by Mr. Routledge, and the ruins of stone houses, are the remains of a race whose origin is unknown and of whom there is no tradition.