

INDIAN GHOSTS AND CONCH FEASTS. BY R. G. HALIBURTON, F.R.G.S., ETC.

(Read April 10, 1897).

Had the natives of Jamaica any connection with the races of North or South America? This is a question which we cannot discuss in the limited state of our knowledge of West Indian natives. This arises partly from the fact that the cruel power that is now deluging Cuba with blood, succeeded in little more than a century in exterminating the friendly and peaceable natives of the West Indies.

No page in the history of our race presents such a blank as that which refers to those people. The Spaniards said that the natives reminded them of the people of Majorca; but that race was a small one, and no doubt an offshoot of the dwarf stock that, according to Professor Sergi, migrated from North Africa to the islands and to the Northern shores of the Mediterranean. The Spaniards probably referred to the little Caribs. In the Atlas region of Morocco the dwarfs and their large offshoots are called "the little Haritin" and "the large Haritin." When I first, in 1890, saw one of the latter, I said "That man must be a Carib." The dwarfs range from 4 feet to 4 feet 10. Their larger kinsmen are from 4 feet 10 to 5 feet 4 inches, and both have that peculiar, bright-reddish complexion, that so generally characterizes dwarfs. My Berber servant (thanks to whom I became their discoverer) said, "They have a red complexion, quite different from that of other races in Morocco. It is like that of the red Indians of America." A recent color chart by a German anthropologist makes the Tupi Guarani and most other races of South America have the same tint as the Berbers. The fact that their names for spirits, or ghosts, *Cemis*, and *Tona*, are to be met with in Central America, and as far north as the Pueblos, leads us to suspect that the people of the islands, and of Central America must have sprung from the same stock.

Brasseur de Bourbourg's idea that the Popul Vuh was historical, even though he was backed up in it by Max Muller, he had to abandon in his old age. It was a mythical work, containing astronomical legends that are as widespread as the wanderings of our race. Within the past two years cave deposits and inscriptions have been found in Yucatan, that lead to the idea that the Mayas, when they arrived there, were already a semi-civilized people.

We must be patient, and must collect in properly managed museums all that can be gathered together as to the aborigines of the West Indies. In time this great blank in anthropology will be filled up, but we now have tantalizing glimpses of affinities, that serve only to stimulate and baffle our curiosity.

Bishop Hanna was right in his conjecture, that aboriginal remains would probably be found, if sought for, in Pedro, Jamaica. The contents of the caves there are well known, although it is possible that treasure-seekers, or even antiquaries, may a century or two ago have carried away or destroyed much in them that would have been of interest. On the top of a hill at Malvern Chase, it was said, when I was there eleven years ago, that there was an Indian burial place. I employed a couple of men for one or two days in opening some places that seemed promising, but the results were on the whole disappointing. On digging down in some places there, we found an almost solid mass of little shells, about two inches thick, in a regular layer. But we found no skeletons or human bones, although we came across a large quantity of broken pottery, which seemed to have been an