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HISTORICAL FOOTPRINTS IN AMERICA.

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With the facilities of intercourse which steam navigation has created between Europe and America, and the habitual resort of the settlers on the Western Continent, to the marts and centres of gaiety of the Old World, it is becoming more and more difficult for us to realise all that is implied in the date A.D., 1492, as that in which American history begins. Few facts in the history of our globe are more singular, than that one hemisphere should have remained utterly unknown to the other till the close of the fifteenth century; and the wondering admiration with which the discovery of the New World was then greeted by the Old, was not diminished by the disclosures that followed. New, indeed, the western hemisphere was, as is the planet Neptune, or the latest discovered asteroid; or as the Flint-Folk of the drift are new to us. But with the discoveries of Cortes and Pizaro, the men of Europe became gradually familiarised with the conviction that it was no new world they had found; but one with native relics of an ancient past: pyramids, temples, and hieroglyphics tempting to a comparison with those of Egypt; and sculptures, rites, and institutions of various kinds, all pregnant with suggestive resemblances to those of the oldest Asiatic nations.