

t. Besides, express a sum, Cents, and they would United States, Pound is not business; but, and advanced, from its excessive of its Saxon name appropriate might probably masses would em. On this ions, Pounds, being counted and six pence ins, being the ectively.

r details, or to before leaving though in the ic actual value ferent, yet if a vades all, the re simple and e were likewise and Measures, e greatly facilitated from the try.

of listening to and read by the chiefly confined ions of Mexico

and Peru, at the period of the conquest of these countries by the Spaniards. He described the complicated form of government established among the Mexicans, their progress in legislation, agriculture, fortification, and many of the mechanical arts; and remarked upon their picture writing, their system of Arithmetic, and their wonderful attainments in Astronomy. After contrasting such indications of a high state of civilization with the grossness of their mythology, and the revolting rites of their religion, he carefully examined the many conflicting hypotheses that have been formed respecting their origin: and on the whole, seemed to incline to the notion of their intimate connection with the Shepherd Kings of Egypt.

It is interesting to observe how intimately the Serpent has been intertwined with the superstitions of various nations. In the old World we find it playing a conspicuous part in Egypt, Greece, Assyria, and China, and in every country peopled by the Celtic race.* In the new, we trace it among the ancient monuments on the banks of the Mississippi and its tributaries, the carvings on the altars of the Natches, the paintings of the Mexicans, and the temples of Central America. Among the Egyptians the *Cobra* was the sign of royalty and power; and to the Mexicans the *feather-headed-rattle-snake* conveyed the same idea, and was also the peculiar symbol of their Sun-God.

The existence of mighty nations enjoying an advanced state of cultivation in America at the time of its discovery, fills us with astonishment; but when we find that the Mexicans, who had erected stupendous edifices that rivalled those of Egypt, as well as the Peruvians, who, at a time when there were no public highways in Great Britain, except such as were relics of Roman greatness, had constructed admirable roads thousands of miles in length, over lofty mountains, and across frightful ravines,—that these, I say, were but of yesterday, and probably inferior in every respect when compared with the Toltecs, or with the inhabitants of the mysterious cities of Cen-

* See "Stukeley's Stonehenge and Abury."