

Young People's Department.



INDIANS OF THE PRAIRIE.

ORIGIN OF THE INDIANS.

THE origin of the aborigines of America is involved in mystery. Many have been the speculations indulged in and the volumes written by learned and able men to establish, each one, his favorite theory. The Indians have been supposed, by certain writers, to be of Jewish origin; either descended from a portion of the ten tribes, or from the Jews of a later date.

Efforts have also been made, but with little success, to detect a resemblance of words in their language to the Hebrew, and some very able writers have adopted the opinion that this fact is established. There are striking resemblances between the ideas and practices of our North American Indians, and those of many eastern nations, which show them to be of Asiatic origin, but yet they do not identify them more with the Jews than with the Tartars, or Egyptians, or even the Persians.

The pretensions of the Welsh have been put forth with not a little zeal, and have been considered by some as having more plausibility.

They assert that about the year 1170, on the death of Owen Gwyneth, a strife for the succession arose among his sons; that one of them, disgusted with the quarrel, embarked in ten ships with a number of people, and sailed westward till he discovered an unknown land; that, leaving part of his people as a colony, he returned to Wales, and after a time again sailed with new recruits, and was never heard of afterwards.

A supposition more plausible than any other is, that America was peopled from the northeastern part of Asia. This seems to correspond with history in another respect. By successive emigrations, Asia furnished Europe and Africa with their population, and why not America?

THE HILLSIDE.

AT a dinner party in New York a Californian happened to mention the annual yield of some of the richest gold and silver mines in the Pacific State, when a quiet old man beside him said:—