

A GENERAL DELUGE.

(Continued from page 104.)

The American continent bears unmistakable traces of a race who lived contemporaneous with those people. They, too, were mound, pyramid and artificial lake builders; they were sun-worshippers, as were those who reached Asia, and, like them had their idols, to whom they made animal and human sacrifices; they faced the east in their worship, and buried their dead looking the same direction, and each had a large array of priests who administered to their gods; each employed ornamented funeral urns in which they deposited the ashes of their worthy dead, and each used the phallic emblem in the same manner. In short, each were parts of the great wave of humanity, going out of a common centre, one rolling eastward, the other westward, to escape a then impending calamity. Each had similar features† and similar forms of expression; each carried forward a similar civilization; each had made similar advances in mineralogy; each employed the now lost art of hardening copper for stone-cutting, and used the precious metals for ornamentation. And, to climax the whole, each had a written language.‡ Famine, pestilence, and exterminating war, an overwhelming ocean wave, or some other direful calamity swept all away. His labors only remain to tell that he has been. Savage man, from some

† In an excavation made in the lower stage, or esplanade of the principal mound, I found embedded in the walls of the cut, and so firmly fixed in the wall that it was with difficulty extracted, the head of an idol with Asiatic features. * * It would be of thrilling interest to be able to ascertain how the conception of the Asiatic face originated.—S. B. Evans in his letter of May 25th, 1881; to the Chicago Times, describing his visit to the pyramid of Cholula, Mexico.

‡ Their monuments indicate that they had entered upon a career of civilization; they lived in stationary communities, cultivating the soil and relying on its generous yield for support; they clothed themselves, in part at least, in garments regularly spun and woven; they modeled clay and carved stone, even of the most obdurate characters, into images representing animate objects, including even the human face and form, with a close adherence to nature; they mined and cast copper in a variety of useful forms; they quarried mica, steatite, chert and the novaculite slates, which they wrought into articles adapted to personal adornment, to domestic use, or to the chase; they collected brine of the salines into earthen vessels, moulded in baskets which they evaporated into a form which admitted of transportation; they erected an elaborate line of defence stretching for many hundred miles, to guard against the sudden irruption of enemies; they had a national religion, in which the elements were the objects of supreme adoration; temples were erected upon the platform mounds, and watch-fires lighted upon the highest summits; and in the celebration of the mysteries of their faith, human sacrifices were probably offered.—Foster's Pre-Historic Races of the United States, pp. 350 and 351.

(To be continued.)

less favored region, gained control, and intruded his dead into the mounds and places of sepulchre of the lost, and now, so far as America is concerned, wholly extinct race.

The antiquarian and scientist, and the theologian as well, should cease investigations among the ruins of Asia for the birthplace of humanity, but such may, with profit, find a perfect resemblance between ancient Asiatic and American civilizations, and almost demonstrate that the latter is coeval with or antedates the former by thousands of years; that the western is quite as old as the eastern hemisphere, and that here has been wrought changes of which the human mind has but a feeble conception; that the marks of an ancient and advanced civilization all around us give indications of still older ones which cycles of submergence and emergence are ever developing to observing man; and which, if human records could be preserved through all the mutations of time, would ultimately reveal much that at present is concealed from the earnest investigator.

In a preceding article we stated that even scientists, had claimed too brief a period for the age of the earth. A hundred thousand years leave but trifling changes on the earth's surface, when the vast whole is taken into account. A portion of a continent may be engulfed and another may emerge from the ocean; new islands may appear, or seas be drained, but the general appearance will remain the same. The changes are not so marked or frequent now as during earlier periods, when the internal heat was greater, the surface thinner, and the shock was more universal.

Geologists, as if fearful that a statement of the long period which has elapsed since the earth was a molten incandescent mass, revolving on its own axis, as well as round the sun, carrying with it several satellites, all of which, save the moon, have been completely swallowed up and lost in the parent earth, are content to demonstrate the thousands of years which would be required to silt up the valley of the Nile; to show how vast a period would be required for the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri, and the tributaries, to fill up an arm of the ocean from Cairo to the Gulf of Mexico; to abrade the rock of Niagara and form the mighty chasm, more than two hundred feet in depth, and seven miles in length, through which flow the waters of the great lakes on their way to the ocean; or to build up a chalk cliff nearly a mile in height, as found in England, from minute shells of microscopic animalculæ.