

establish their existence. It has been remarked that these remains are nearly all along the great watercourses, and this is pointed to as evidence that they were a nomadic people who followed the great rivers in their wanderings. The mounds are found along the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Missouri, the Yellowstone, in the vicinity of the great lakes, and along the great streams of the North-West to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and are said to extend beyond. Ignatius Donnelly, in his highly interesting work "Atlantia," says that the mound-builders were wanderers from a great continent which once existed in the Atlantic Ocean, connected by isthmuses with Africa and South America, which continent, according to Plato's transcription of a conversation between an Egyptian priest and Solon, was swept away in a single night by a mighty convulsion of nature as a punishment for the grievous sins of its inhabitants. The Atlantians or antediluvians were, according to this writing, a highly favoured people; arts and manufactures had been brought to a state of perfection amongst them. Their cities were magnificent, the people wealthy and powerful, and their ships sailed to every sea. But their opulence made them insolent: they drifted away from knowledge of God, became fire-worshippers and idolaters with hideous rites; for which their country was entirely obliterated and only a mere handful of them escaped to Europe and America. It was from this continent, according to Mr. Donnelly, who weaves the web of his theories in a most entertaining way, that the mound-builders came, and they penetrated the utmost parts of the earth in quest of gold and silver, which were dedicated to their chief gods, the gold to the sun and the silver to the moon.

The remarkable similarity between ancient remains found in Central America and Peru and remains in Egypt and the East, pointed out by Humboldt, and later by Captain Spiere, suggests a connecting link and intercourse in early times between the peoples of America, Europe and Africa. These travellers instance the arch in architecture similar to that found in ancient buildings in the East, sculptured heads of Ethiopians and carvings in stone of elephants and other animals purely eastern and altogether foreign to America as evidence of such connection; but the most remarkable fact is the similarity which exists between the writings found in Central America, the only ancient writings discovered on this side of the Atlantic, and those of the Phœnician, the oldest written language known to man. It is improbable that this similarity is accidental, and if the civilization of which these writings are testimony came from the far East it is improbable that it found its way to Central America from Asia by the Aleutian Islands and North America, as some would account for the populating of this continent. The mound-builders came from the South. There they erected their greatest monuments. They entered the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico. A short time ago a fragment of bone, bearing a rude carving, was found in a North-West mound, which was pronounced a fish-bone such as is found only on the shores of the Gulf. The mounds which they erected either for defence, for places of sepulture, or as altars upon which to sacrifice to their gods, are plentiful along the great rivers of the south. Had these works, some of which are circular enclosures, others square, and others again in the shape of animals and reptiles, the serpentine design seeming to have been the most popular, been designed for defence, they would suggest the proximity of settlements. No such settlements appear to have existed. People taking up permanent residence and throwing up such gigantic works to mark their presence would surely have built their homes with equal solidity; but no remains of habitations have been found, with one exception. The exception is a case in Tennessee, where a concrete or hard clayey floor, supposed to have been a threshing-floor, was uncovered many feet below the surface of the earth, and in an adjacent mound bones were found which decided a question medical men have long pondered over. Had they been an agricultural people, implements of tillage would have been found. They apparently had no settled life. Wherever they tarried during their wanderings they erected mounds. In these mounds they buried certain of their dead—perhaps their distinguished dead—and in the burial or other rites celebrated on the mounds fire played a part, for ashes are invariably found in the mounds. What more plausible than that these mysterious people wandered from place to place in search of metals, base and precious? In Arizona, Sonora, and in other parts of the South-West, miners' cuttings and shafts have been found which have been pronounced to far antedate the Spanish conquest of Mexico, and there is evidence that the Lake Superior copper mines were worked in ages long past, even beyond the traditions of the Indians. They must have been expert miners who did this, for Professor Wilson instances, in one of his writings, a block of copper weighing many hundredweights, which had been mined with great skill and had been raised from its bed on supports ready for removal. A derrick of some sort must have been used in moving the block. In the cavity from which the ore had been cut were found the tools of the ancient miners.

Who were these miners? Whence did they bear the result of their mining operations? What great calamity overtook them that they were swept away without leaving any identifying marks save these dumb remains which refuse to reveal their secrets? They must have been numerous. The mounds could not have been thrown up by a few. Many hands wrought long upon them. They were before the Toltecs of Mexico, for the mounds or pyramids presumably the work of the Toltecs are of stone and like to the pyramids of Egypt. If they were the mound-builders it is surprising that they should content themselves to work rudely in clay when they were so expert in working stone, which was plentiful in the vicinity of many of the mounds. The Hittite migration, one of the theories to account for the mound-builders, may be the solution of the mystery; but there is no proof to set against conjecture. The Hittites, in the days of Solomon, occupied the country between Palestine and the Euphrates, and to trade with them Solomon imported horses from Egypt. The Hittites then dealt in horses and, by implication, were horsemen. If they had wandered into America from Asia, it is reasonable to suppose that they would have brought the horse with them. There is no record that the horse was known in America previous to the conquest of Mexico by Cortez. The Mexicans had never seen a horse until they encountered Cortez's mounted men, and then they thought that horse and rider were one piece, and were filled with affright when they beheld the men dismounting. The Indians, which the "Book of Mormon" says are the remnants of an early Hebrew immigration to this country, came upon the scene long after the mound-builders, about whom their traditions are silent. The bulk of authority favours the theory of the Mongolian extraction of the Indians, and it is said, but not verified, that there are Indians in Southern California who speak a language intelligible to North Chinamen. While the indications are that the Indians were out of Asia, their legends, or at least the legends of a great many of the tribes, point to the East as the land of their origin. Then how account for the Mandans, who are Indians with blue eyes, flaxen hair and beards, who, at certain seasons of the year, practise rites strongly resembling Hebraic ceremonies. There is a wide field for research in these questions. Canadian scientists should proceed at once with the search of the mounds to be found in the North-West. There is no doubt but that the Government would act on the *Mail's* suggestions, and grant aid to such undertakings. The man who said that he was more concerned in discovering whither he was going rather than whence he came will take no interest in these investigations; but a large part of the community will watch eagerly for the great developments which they promise.

T. A. GREGG.

NOTES FROM THE CONTINENT.

PARIS, FRANCE.

It is only since 1844 that the question of public health, sanitary reform, or hygiene, has become an official study. We have now some idolaters of cleanliness who maintain such is more necessary than food: they seemingly desire that the blacksmiths, labourers and scavengers should go to their work in evening dresses and white cravats, with perfumed gloves, a cane and an eye-glass. M. Bourchardat in a "Treatise" exposes these sentimental hygienists. He does not believe diseases will appear when people are well-housed. Persons badly lodged pay the larger tribute to diseases because other misfortunes are associated therewith, notably misery. The rag-pickers who improvise their cabins or *kraals*, and live in the middle of gathered filth, suffer less from disease than the average of workmen. The men who work in the sewers, who empty night-soil reservoirs, and the labourers who irrigate soils with Paris sewage, do not exhibit any specially high death-rate. Since fifty years M. Bourchardat has been officially connected with the Public Charities of Paris, and does not appear at all enthusiastic over the ameliorations effected in hospitals and dwellings in accordance with modern principles. The author lays down that the true way to keep away diseases is to know them. That is the positive plan for preserving health. Two causes are demonstrated as truisms in the production of disease: defective food and over-population. He further thinks that nature has acted well by concealing from us the causes of many ailments, as that enforces attention to prudence and moderation in our habits. All that there is very positive about disinfectants and fumigations, the celebrated doctor adds, is the expense. Overcrowding is bad, but insufficiency of food and deleterious aliments are more injurious to health than insalubrious dwellings; a sound stomach is the best safeguard against epidemics. As for quarantines, lazarettes and *cordons sanitaires*, M. Bourchardat views them as relics of the Middle Ages. Legislators are strong in faith but weak in doctrine, and their cures frequently do not even come up to those of old women's, namely, to do neither harm nor good.

THE agrarian difficulty exists in France as in other countries, despite the fact that facilities everywhere exist for the cultivator of the soil to become its owner. The latter facility is an intricate social and economic problem. The small farmer's position is worse than that of a farm-labourer; hence why small holdings are not in favour. But there is a more serious