

lope clan and the dancing is renewed, accompanied by a monotonous chant and emphasized at intervals by the dancers springing in unison on the right leg to cause a simultaneous rattling of the tortoise shells. Again they form in column, and arriving at the grotto the dancer on the left opens the door, seizes two or three snakes, places them in his mouth, their heads about three inches from his face. The column now re-forms and dances around the rock, the man with the eagle feathers—his left arm locked in that of the snake-holder—keeping the snakes' heads constantly brushed out from his partner's face. After several times circling the sacred rock the dancers form around a circle of sacred meal and cast the snakes into it; a half-way-around movement is then quickly performed, when the dancers break ranks and each individual, dipping into the wriggling, writhing mass of serpents, seizes three or four by their necks between his fingers and starts off at a run, some to the east, some to the west, some to the north, some to the south; down the precipitous sides of the cliffs they go, jumping from rock to rock, and having reached the lowlands cast the snakes loose and bid them go, the people's messengers to the author of rain, and tell him how much his people need the refreshing showers. When they return they repair to the Khiva and take an emetic prepared by the priests; this removes from their stomachs any remains of the antidote to snake poison taken before the ceremony, and after a rest of a few hours they are ready to partake of the feast prepared for them by the Moqui women. Down to this evil-smelling Khiva have been sent quantities of red, yellow, blue and white bread and all the choice viands of their limited cuisine, and here until morning they will feast and frolic where hitherto they have fasted and prayed. The ceremony is over; from Nature's children the prayer has sped to Nature's God, and they are content to abide the result. It is a picture from the "ancient of days," cut out from the limitless past and let down into this age of steam and electricity. We turn away from it with regret, wondering how long it will be before the advancing wave of a more aggressive civilization will blot it from the face of the earth.