

it was already inhabited by a civilized race, the Toltecs; and whence came they or their civilization, and whence came the civilization of the Peruvians?

The latest theory is, that this civilization came from China. But one little fact is sufficient to demolish this theory, and that is that the art of writing was known to the Chinese from time immemorial. Of course it follows that if China colonized America, the colonists would have preserved the art of writing as well as the other elements of civilization. But the Mexicans and Peruvians did not possess the art of writing, properly so called, and, at all events, the picture-writing of the Mexicans, and the *quippas* of the Peruvians, are as different as possible from the writing of the Chinese.

Having thus demolished one theory, we are in duty bound to construct another, which we will guarantee to rest on as good grounds as any theory in existence relative to American civilization anterior to the time of Columbus.

Many things indicate that the civilization of Mexico and that of Peru were obtained from different sources, but the chief one, that of religion, seems to be conclusive on this point. The Mexicans worshipped idols, the Peruvians did not. The Mexicans offered human sacrifices, the Peruvians, so far as can be ascertained, never did so. Now for our theory.

In the seventh century there arose in Arabia a man who founded a new religion and propagated it by the sword. In a very short time his followers had spread themselves east and west, conquering and converting in their career every nation with which they came in contact. Among other countries overrun by these enthusiasts, was the Peninsula of Hindoostan. The Hindoos had possessed a civilization as ancient as any in the world. Now, being overcome by the conquering votaries of Mahomet, and forced to choose between the creed of their victors and the sword, what more natural than that some of them should seek new homes in another land? Granting this, and that they landed in Mexico, where their superior civilization was a passport to power, they could of course introduce their worship of idols, and, as in

their own country, propitiate those idols with human sacrifices. No other part of the continent of America sacrificed human beings but Mexico, and no people in Asia excepting the Hindoos offered such sacrifices. This last reason is, we think, conclusive. Of course, when the Aztecs conquered Mexico, they would adopt the civilization and religion of the conquered Toltecs just as Rome adopted the civilization and religion of conquered Greece.

As to Peru, the same people which conquered Hindoostan also conquered Persia, and of course the same results would follow; some of the conquered Persians, unwilling to adopt the religion of their conquerors, would emigrate, and we assume that these emigrants would land in Peru. The chief deity of the Persians was the Sun; that luminary also was the object of the worship of the Peruvians, and the same remark which we have made above, with regard to Mexico, as to religion, holds equally good with regard to Peru. The Peruvians were the only people in America who worshipped the Sun; the Persians were the only Asiatics who did so. It is quite true that the Peruvian traditions place the arrival of Manco Capac some four hundred years after the conquest of Persia by the Mahometans; but we must bear in mind that, though Persia was overrun by the Caliphs shortly after the death of Mahomet, still it was centuries before the last Guebre chief was conquered, and in fact the fire-worshippers are not exterminated to this day. Fierce battles were fought between the Mahometan Lieutenants of the Caliphs and the Persians, long after the establishment of the Mogul Empire in India; and, of course, while a single chief tain kept alive the sacred fire on the mountains of Persia, no Guebre would desert his country. Therefore, we think the arrival of Manco Capac in Peru must have been soon after the completion of the Mahometan conquest of Persia.

But, aside from this, although the traditions of the Peruvians only go back some four hundred years before the conquest of their empire by Pizzaro, and only give twelve Incas to the empire of Peru, still it is but tradition, and, like the seven kings of