

dimensions of Solomon's temple at Jerusalem. Many of their other buildings bear striking resemblances to ancient erections in Egypt and India; and, on the whole, the coincidences are so extraordinary, that a very clever author in the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, did some years ago make out, to his own satisfaction, that these buildings were erected by descendants of the Canaanites, driven from Judea by Joshua; who, after a pilgrimage through the wilds of Tartary and North America, had finally settled down in Yucatan. Others supposed them to have been erected by the lost tribes of Israel. The connection with India, Egypt and Palestine, is evident; but I would rather refer its cause to the great extent of commercial enterprise among the peculiar people of these early ages, than have recourse to the supposition that a whole nation could employ ages and generations in traversing desert regions, and, after the expiration of all those ages, arrive in this far distant land, with all their knowledge fresh as from a recent teacher, and entire as if recorded and carried with them on tablets of brass.

It is to be hoped, that a key to these hieroglyphics of Central America, will soon be found; and that we shall be able to read them, as we now do those of Egypt. When we can do this, and not till then, will we acquire an insight into the early history of those who composed them; but the existence of such a people, and upon such a spot, gives a derivation to the arts and learning of Mexico and Peru, which is sufficiently singular and precise, to justify me in reckoning these countries exceptions to the general course of our reasoning.

After these remarks, which have run out to a greater length than I intended to have allowed them, I shall proceed to make a few remarks upon the connection between literature and commerce during the early progress of civilization in Europe. And here our attention must first be turned to the early civilization of the Greeks, a people, the combined elegance and originality of whose literature are regarded even at this day as something which has yet to be attempted, rather than as any thing which has been equalled. We must then turn to that of the Romans, and shall probably find, that commerce had great influence in producing the marked difference of national mind in the two countries.

It is impossible to enter now into details of the early Grecian commerce; our time will not allow it, and it would hardly be necessary for our purpose, even if it did. The connection of early Greece with those countries which we found to have been the very focus of early commerce and civilization, is clearly proved, by the fact that Cærops, the first king of Athens, was an Egyptian,—Pelops of Mycenæ, a Phrygian prince,—and that Cadmus introduced written characters from the Phœnicians. These facts prove that a familiar communication took place between Greece and the countries from which these rulers came. Another proof of the energy of commercial spirit among the Greeks, is to be found in the fact, that they established colonies everywhere within the range of their maritime enterprise; not colonies consisting of a conquered town or province, and dignified with that name as a matter of favour, as the Romans did; but real settlements, peopled by their people, and speaking their language. And this colonization, though commencing in so early an age, that the difference of pronunciation, which was produced by distance and change of climate, gradually increased till it formed distinct dialects of the mother tongue, was yet continued, till the parent states had lost their greatness. We find them with important settlements in the