

tempting to follow them through their lonely deserts. The Parthians were of Seythian origin.

33. What remarkable circumstances present themselves to our notice in the history of the Arabs?

They are the most ancient unconquered nation in the world, and the most abstemious. In them has been fulfilled the prophecy concerning Ismael, from whom they are principally descended: "Ismael will be a wild man, his hand against every man, and every man's hand against him, and he shall *dwell* in the presence of all his brethren." From Agar, their mother, they were called *Agarrasins*; hence their modern name of *Saracens*.

34. Can you give any particular account of the ancient inhabitants of India?

Very little is known of them with certainty prior to the conquests of modern Europeans.—Their country was, as it still is, justly famed for the richness and beauty of its precious stones, silks, perfumes, and spices. Their religion, characterized by the belief in the transmigration of souls, their laws and customs, have ever made them an easy prey for the ambition of conquerors. Their sacred books or *Vedas*, are written in a dead language, called the *sanscrit*.

35. At what date does the authentic history of the Chinese begin?

About 800 years before Christ: but their fabulous accounts extend through a period of 272,000 years before the creation!

Their founder was Yao, or, as some will have it, Noah himself. The Chinese kings are divided into twenty-two successive dynasties, comprising a duration of above 4000 years.—The most gigantic monument erected by them is the famous wall, 1500 miles in length, built (B. C. 215) along the northern frontier of China, to prevent the incursions of the Tartars. It failed of its object, as have ever done similar attempts to arrest by mere artificial boundaries the march of a conquering army.

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