

mals, or have painted, with different colors, native pictures, which told the Indians something of their history and religious belief, and across the Rocky Mountains the various tribes of our province on the Pacific have told strange tales in their rock paintings.

Some of the Indian tribes have passed through the stages of advancing civilization, as shown in their stone monuments. The stone cairn, the totemic effigy, and the period of pyramid building mark some of the stages of native culture among widely separated races of the earth. The *Plighting Stane o' Lairg*, now in the Canadian Institute Museum, Toronto, points to the days of the Druids in Great Britain, and in its ancient home in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, thousands of lovers plighted their troth by shaking hands through the orifice in the centre of the stone. Mysticism and superstition were blended in the courtship and marriage customs of the plighting stane. The folklore of the Ottawas has preserved for his the beautiful legend of the White Cross Canoe, which is found in another form in our Northwest in the legend of *Qu'Appelle*. The poetic imagination of the natives of Central America described Copan, the most ancient city on the western continent, in glowing colors, with its great circus, pyramids, temple and swinging stone hammock. Juarros, in his history of Guatemala, gives the account of Fuentes, which is worth recording. "In the year 1700, the great circus of Copan still remained entire. This was a circular space, surrounded by stone pyramids about six yards high and very well constructed. At the base of these pyramids were figures, both male and female, of very excellent sculpture, which then retained the colors they had been enamelled with; and what was not less remarkable, the whole of them were habited in the Castilian costume. In the middle of this area, elevated above a slight of steps, was the place of sacrifice. The same author (Fuentes) relates that, a short distance from the circus there was a portal con-

structed of stone, on the columns of which were the figures of men, likewise represented in Spanish habits, with hose, ruff round the neck, sword, cap and short cloak. On entering the gateway there are two fine stone pyramids, moderately large and lofty, from which is suspended a hammock that contains two human figures, one of each sex, clothed in the Indian style. Astonishment is forcibly excited in viewing this structure, because large as it is, there is no appearance of the component parts being joined together; and although entirely of stone, and of an enormous weight, it may be put in motion by the slightest impulse of the hand. Not far from this hammock is the cave of Tibulca; this appears like a temple of great size, hollowed out of the base of a hill, and adorned with columns having bases, pedestals, capitals and crowns, all accurately adjusted according to architectural principles: at the sides are numerous windows faced with stone exquisitely wrought. All these circumstances lead to a belief that there must have been some intercourse between the inhabitants of the old and new world at very remote periods." The padre at Gualan told Stephens, the explorer of Yucatan, that he had seen the swinging hammock, and an Indian remembered to have heard his grandfather speak of it, yet it is probable that it is the result of the superstitious fears of the natives. Relics of the savage life of our ancestors still remain in some of our customs and beliefs, and with the growth of our culture, the advanced state of our religion, science, art and literature, there should follow corresponding growth in morality and freedom from superstition, yet in many things we remain savages in heart and life, finding delight in brute force, personal or organized, and we reveal to our fellows the base and ignoble side of that nature which should ever be noble and divine.

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