

# OUR FOREST CHILDREN,

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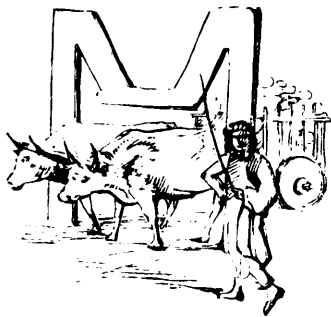
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## Indian Tribes—Paper No. 4.

### THE PUEBLO INDIANS.

By Rev. E. F. Wilson.



MORE than eighty years before the Pilgrim Fathers, in the memorable *Mayflower*, landed on the shores of America, a Franciscan friar, Marco de Niza, traversing the vast expanse of desert between the city of New Mexico and the Gila River, discovered, to his surprise, that the natives of the country were living in towns and houses, and were far more civilized in their hearts than any of the Indians the Spaniards had yet encountered. He found them skilled in the manufacture of cloth fabrics, made from the cotton which they cultivated, and also in the manufacture of pottery. Their villages or towns, built on the most elevated and defensible spots, were regularly laid out in streets and public squares, after the manner of European cities, and below in the valleys were their well-cultivated and irrigated fields.

It has been generally thought that these Pueblo Indians (so named by the Spaniards because they lived in Pueblos or villages) must be the descendants of the ancient Aztecs, the ruins of whose cities are found in Mexico and central America; but recent investigations tend rather to disprove this theory, there being little if any affinity between the languages spoken by the modern Pueblo Indians and that of those ancient people. Nevertheless the Pueblos have, without doubt, occupied their present possessions for a great many generations; there are written records still in existence dating back as far as the year 1656, and they still hold patents given them by the Spanish Government. In their mode of living and their style of dwelling they differ very materially from any other North American Tribe. They are not and never have been nomadic in their habits. They have always dwelt in

towns and villages, and have always cultivated the soil. Their towns consist in one or more squares, each enclosed by three or four buildings or blocks of from 300 to 400 feet in length, and about 150 feet in width at the base, and from two to five storeys each of eight or nine feet in height. The storeys rise in terraces one above another, and the houses are approached by ladders placed against the walls. The general appearance of a Pueblo town from the outside is that of a fort or citadel. There are no doors in the outside walls. One or more narrow streets may lead from the exterior to the centre square or court of the town, then ladders have to be mounted and trap-doors in the roofs passed through in order to reach the interior of the dwellings. The material used for building is the reddish-colored adobe mud which abounds in the region; bricks 20 inches long, 10 inches wide, and 4 or 5 inches thick are made of this mud, dried in the sun, and of these the houses are built, adobe mud being used in the place of mortar.

There are twenty-six of these Pueblo villages now in existence, scattered throughout New Mexico and Arizona. The style of building their houses is very much the same throughout; their mode of living and their manner of dress is also similar at all the villages, but it seems strange that in *language* they differ from one another very materially. At the present time (1889) there are 12,000 Pueblo Indians, and they speak *six* distinct languages, divided into a number of minor dialects. They may be classified as follows:

1.—*The Queres language.* This is spoken in varying dialects by the inhabitants of the Santo Domingo, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Silla, Laguna, Pojuate, Acoma, and Cochiti; 8 villages, numbering about 4100 inhabitants.

2.—*The Tegua language;* spoken by the inhabitants of San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojuate, Nambe, Tesuque; 6 villages, numbering about 950 inhabitants.

3.—*The Picoris language;* spoken by the inhabitants of Taos, Picoris, Zandia, and Isleta; 4 villages, with 2850 inhabitants.

4.—*The Jemez language;* spoken at Jemez and old Pecos; 2 villages, with 400 inhabitants.