

tures as we have described are to be found in the valley of the Rio Grande, is thus easily accounted for.

The Abbé Domenech is of the opinion that many of these ruins show an undoubted Toltec origin, and that they were built before the invasion of their land, some time about the twelfth century. He says:—

“All these towns are so ancient that no Indian traditions of the present races make any mention of them. The banks of the Rio Verde and Salinas abound in ruins of stone dwellings, and fortifications which certainly belong to a more civilized people than the Indians of New Mexico. They are found in the most fertile valleys, where traces of former cultivation and of immense canals for artificial irrigation are visible. The solidly-built walls of these structures are twenty or thirty yards in length, by forty or fifty feet in height; few of the houses are less than three stories, while all contain small openings for doors and windows, as well as loopholes for defence from attacks.”

His theory in relation to the disappearance of the immense population that formerly inhabited the country is, that it was owing in a great degree to a wonderful change in the configuration of the soil; moist and fertile valleys becoming barren solitudes, thus forcing the inhabitants to emigrate to other regions.

After indulging in many theories and much speculation regarding these wonderful ruins stretching over the vast