

traditional centre on the highlands of Iran and the plains of the Caspian, or from several widely separated centres, the view we have mentioned seems equally untenable. It is more reasonable to believe that all the considerable parts of the world received their aboriginal populations in ages far remote, and that in the so-called New World the intellect of man has wrought and wrangled in times that antedate all known history.

This statement rests not upon conjectures merely, for it has received the sanction of eminent investigators. It is foreign to our purpose, however, to enter upon a long summary of the reasons which they advance. Suffice it to say that fifteen centuries ago, this immense valley was the seat of a great nation that had made considerable progress in the arts of civilization. But they disappeared so completely that in default of a better name we call them the Mound Builders.

Their extirpation was caused, as there is reason to believe, by a formidable irruption on the part of another and more barbarous nation. That these invaders were not Indians is rendered probable from the fact that the later have no knowledge of the origin of the works of the Mound Builders. If this is true, the prototype of Tamerlane, the Mongol conquerer, preceded him by many centuries in the New World.

This expulsion, for it is an evident fact, irrespective of its cause, was perhaps the greatest of its kind that the world has ever witnessed.

From what we can glean in the pre-Columbian history of America, it appears that the beginnings of civilization in the Western World were nearly, if not quite, coeval with the rise of the great empires of the Orient. Some persons, whose judgment is to be respected, claim even more than this. When Columbus came, the civilization of Europe was springing into manhood; that of the Occident was in its decay. Our own land had become a solitude before the advent of the Indian.

How full of significance are these glimpses of the past! How interesting might be to us a knowledge of that old civilization of the Mississippi Basin! The social philosopher might find in it a rich mine of information. Considerations like these dissipate our notions of the newness of the world, and show, on the contrary, its great age. Truly, the New World might more appropriately be named the Land of Mystery.

As we turn from the panorama which time has grudgingly unfolded to our view, we might try to pierce the future, yet the attempt is vain. We have a right to look forward to a long period of prosperity for the yet youthful nation which our forefathers founded in the world that Seneca, the Roman poet, prophesied of eighteen centuries ago.

CHICHIMEC.

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READING.

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How to economize his time and turn each hour to the best advantage is a practical question to every student. A large part of the day must necessarily be occupied with his studies. The demands for recreation and social intercourse are considerable, and such as few would be inclined to neglect, even if it were desirable. In addition to this, it is the wish of all to increase their stock of knowledge by general reading, and to keep up an interest in the affairs of the outside world by the aid of current literature.

How best to distribute to each of these objects its own share of time, and balance with equal justice their several claims, is a problem which the majority fail to solve. Either too much time is given to the niceties of mathematics; or theatres, cards, or the society of friends is allowed to hold the monopoly, to the exclusion of the most important work of the curriculum.

Perhaps one becomes excessively attached to literature of more temporary interest, and may be seen dipping into any