

PRE-COLUMBIAN DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

The "Two Republics," of October 25, 1900, an English newspaper printed in the City of Mexico, contains an announcement of recent import archaeological discoveries. The extracts here given, relate to certain objects found, which furnish the text for the observations that follow:

"The discovery of a part of the old Aztec teocalli in the drainage excavations in Escalerillas street is the most important archaeological discovery, perhaps that has ever been made in Mexico. Its importance has been recognized by the government, and \$200,000 will be spent in excavating in and around the plaza—and more if necessary.

"President Diaz is intensely interested in the find. He has a number of the objects at his home and has directed that no money nor effort shall be spared to find every remaining trace of the old Aztec temple.

"Possibly the most important find thus far made was about a thousand jade beads. The quantity of these beads is about a half bushel, or more than twice as many genuine jade beads heretofore known to be in existence in Mexico. These beads were found in different places and at different times. Their importance from an archaeological point of view is that they tend to establish the theory of Chinese origin of the original inhabitants of Mexico. Jade has never been found in its natural state in Mexico and the only place where it is found, or ever has been found, so far as is known, is in China.

"The beads just found range in color from pale to dark green. They are all highly polished and of various sizes and shapes. The most common are about two centimetres in diameter shaped like ordinary beads. There are smaller and larger ones of the same shape. There are also cylindrical beads about one centimetre in diameter and five centimetres in length and others in irregular shapes. Some have carvings on them. These beads were evidently worn in strings around the necks as ornaments. Jade beads were the diamonds of the Aztecs, their most valued personal adornments."

The newspaper reporter is in error in stating that jade is found only in China, yet it is true that the stone is not found in America, in *situ*, and is found only in Siberia, India, China and New Zealand. If the stone found then in other localities than in those where it abounds in its natural state, that is evidence of communication, or that human beings have transported such articles from the place where such natural objects exist, to a place where they did not exist in a state of nature. In plain words, men of different or widely separated regions have been brought together.

Proof of Communication With China.

The discovery of jade ornaments in Mexico, in a locality and under such circumstances that we may be certain they could not have been deposited there

by the Spaniards, is good evidence that the ancient occupants of Mexican soil had communication with China, or other localities where jade is found in its natural state.

Jade is a peculiar stone; is not precious, but it is rare and possesses some qualities that are not to be found in other stones; it is not resplendent with color but it has the quality that is recognized as rarity. The Chinese have prized it for centuries; it is known among the semi civilized tribes of India and is thus described by mineralogists: True jade or nephrite is a native silicate of calcium and magnesium. The Encyclopedia Britannica says; "So far as is at present known, no true jade has ever been detected in situ, in Europe. It is by the Chinese, that Jade has always been most highly prized and notwithstanding its intractability most elaborately carved. To the Chinese it is known under the name of *yu*, or *yu-chi*,



yu stone. Jade is not found in Europe in its natural state; it has, however, been found in the ruins of the Lake dwellings of Switzerland and by Schliemann, in the ruins of Troy.

Edward P. Vining in his book, of near 800 pages, published in 1885, has an exhaustive account of all that has been written within his knowledge of Chinese contact with America. The book contains references to authors of the centuries since the birth of Christ and is written in a scholarly manner and in a calm, judicious spirit. Mr. Vining is, if anything, too modest in his claims to public distinction and this charm is observed throughout all the pages of the work that he has designated "An Inglorious Columbus." This Columbus or discoverer of America is revealed in the pages of the book in the person of Hwui Shan, a Chinese explorer. In his introduction Mr. Vining says:

"There is among the records of China, an account of a Buddhist priest, who in the year 499 A. D., reached China and stated that he had returned from a trip to a country lying an immense distance east. It seems to be accepted that this Buddhist succeeded in convincing the

Chinese Emperor and the scholars by whom he was surrounded, of the truth of his tale, and that he also obtained the belief of the people of China and of all Eastern Asia so thoroughly, that even now after a lapse of some fourteen centuries, there is scarcely a man in China, Japan or Corea, who has not at least some knowledge of the marvelous land of Fusang, that was visited by him. The fact that he obtained such universal credence is certainly of some weight. An imposter would not be likely to be so successful.

Route of China Explorer.

Mr. Vining in his book, goes so far as to locate the exploits of Hwui Shan, beginning on the northeastern coast of China, coasting the country on the eastern side of the Asiatic continent, beyond Corea and the Japanese islands, to the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific Ocean. It is his theory that the explorers were scarcely ever out of sight of land but continued to coast until they reached Alaska; thence they followed the western line of the American continent in a southerly direction, until they reached Mexico, which was named by them as Fusang. It will be impossible in an abbreviated article in a newspaper to give full proofs to show that the Chinese explorers visited the regions described in their journey toward Fusang or Mexico. It will be sufficient now to say that the Aleutian islands may be identified, which at that time were but stepping stones as it were, between Asia and America. During the past centuries small islands of the Aleutian group have disappeared and there are traditions among the islanders that many more disappeared in the centuries before this. Aside from the incomplete and unsatisfactory accounts, derived from Chinese history that seem apocryphal, because they are not of European origin, there are certain facts that cannot be ignored.

The recent occupation of Alaskan coast, on the borders of Bering sea and straits, shows that migration between Siberia in Asia, and Alaska in America is not impossible.

The Indian of Tartar Parentage.

It is found that actual migrations took place between the two continents, over the ice, and that such migrations are not unusual but have been habitual for many years. There is, therefore, absolute proof of Asiatic contact with America, and if such contact is now possible, it has been so for centuries. Therefore, there can be no further doubt as to the intermingling of Asiatic and American races. The Scythians were Siberians, and ancient Scythians scalped their captured enemies. The North American Indians scalped their enemies; they also preserve in their features their Tartar parentage. He who looks upon the Indian of the plains and especially