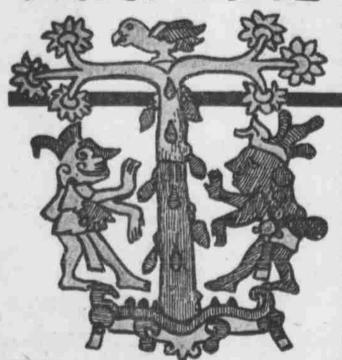
## THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE MAGAZINE PAGE

## Where Did the Ancient Aztecs Get Their Bible Stories?



The Adam and Eve of the Aztecs Before the Tree of Knowledge. From Ancient Picture Writing Done
Long Before the Spaniards Entered Mexico.
The Lighter Figure Is Eve. The Snake Appears as a Bird.

Eve of the Mayans, the Ancient Cultured Race That Preceded the Aztecs.
This Newly Discovered Sculpture Sculpture Probably Dates
from 500 B. C.

The Mayan's Adam, a First Man Carrying Race That Preceded the Aztecs.

Companion for Eve in the Same Set of Sculpture Same Set of Sculpture Just Found.



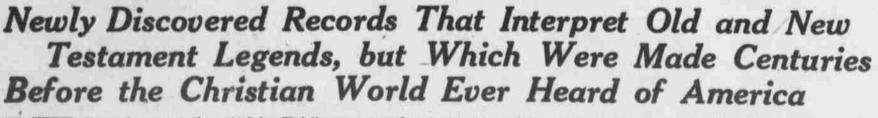




A Mayan Bas Relief Representing Eve Tempting Adam. The Two Are Seen Holding the Snake Which Is Counsel-ling Them, and (to the Right) a Wall Sculpture Which Is Thought to Represent Adam and Abel.



Below Is the Wonderful Ruined Temple at Uxmal Known as the Temple of the Columns in Which Rituals Corresponding Strangely to the Christian Were Observed Long Before the Spanish Conquest.



ruined cities of Central America, notably by the party in Guatemala, and progress in interpreting those already found and copied in Mexico and Yucatan, have raised with greater force than ever the question of where the ancient Astecs, the kindred races of the Central American States, and the mysterious Mayan race, which preceded the Aztecs, get their Old and New Testament legends.

The points of resemblance in the religious beliefs and rituals of the old Americans and those held and prac-

ECENT discoveries among the tised by Christians are too close to be mere coinci- seems to be adding to dences. Any court of law would pass upon them as derived from a common source.

And yet these traditions and observances were a familiar part of Mayan and Artec life centuries before the discovery of America by Columbus, and the conquest of their civilization by marauding Spaniards.

The recent finds that have raised the mystery anew are panels and inscriptions and picture writings in which the legend of the Fall of Man is clearly indicated. Not only Eve, the first mother, is shown, but Adam. And one striking bas-relief presents the characters which have been identified as Adam and Eve, with the addition of the Subtle Serpent of the story. In this sculpture the snake is not, as usually depicted, coiled around the Tree of Life. It is held instead by Eve, and

ments to hers while Adam stands listening.

Still other carvings have been interpreted as illustrating the various legends of the Patriarchs, and in one case there seems no doubt that a legend identical with the sacrifice of Isaac is depicted.

In fact, say the archaeologists. either here there is a series of coincidences unparallelled in history and well-nigh unbelievable, or else some one thoroughly schooled in Old and New Testament came into contact with the Mayans, the predecessors of the Aztecs, in some far distant time and partly, at least,

It is worthy of note that even at the time of the Conquest the priests who accompanied Cortez were struck by these resemblances. They found side by aide with the basest and most brutal superstitions, the most familiar religious observances. There was, for instance, the ritual of the baptism of infants, and one can imagine the surprise of the conquerors when they saw the babies sprinkled with water just like a Christian babe. while the "heathen" priest prayed

"the One Living God to permit the holy drops to wash away the sin that was given to it before the foundation of the world, so that this child may be born anew."

Still more curiously familiar were some of their prayers. "Wilt Thou blot us out, O Lord, forever," ran one of them. "Is this punishment intended not for our reformation, but for our destruction?" "Keep peace with all: bear injuries with humility; God, who sees all, will

While the most striking parallel of all with the New Testament, notes the historian, Prescott, was the declaration in their moral code that "he who looks too curiously on a woman commits sin with his eyes."

Again the rite of confession was practised among the Asteos, and among the exhortations of the priest was this one: "Clothe the naked and feed the hungry, whatever privations it may cost thee; for remember their flesh is like thine, and they are men like thee."

No mention, however, is made in the older writings of similar stories to the earliest legends of the Bible, the carven illustrations of which have just been recognized. And here, too, it may be said that almost all the emblems of the Masonic order have been identified in the Yucatan buried cities, carven in their temples. There

is even the Apron with the Eye set within the Triangle. In connection with these discoveries an early theory has gained some credence. This is bound up with the story of Quetzalcoatl, the great white God of the Aztecs. The legend they held of him was that one day, back in the far distant past, a stranger of noble appearance, white and bearded, sailed in from the Atlantic Ocean in a bark of serpent skins. He taught them agriculture, gave them laws-and then, incurring the wrath of one of the principle gods of the country, sailed away after promising to return again with his sons and rule the country.

At the time of the Conquest there was a very explicit tradition of Quetzalcosti which described his appearance with a convincing minuteness. The legend, in fact, did much to assist the Spaniards in conquering the country, because the superstitious Monteguma, the ruler, was persuaded that the Spaniards were those of whom Quetsalcoatl had prophesied.

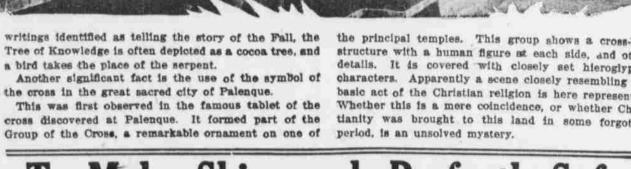
It has been held by some scholars that Quetzalcoatl was really the apostle Thomas. The Aztec name means feathered serpent, but the last syllable also means Didymus, the Greek for Thomas, also signifies a This seems slight ground for such a startling identification, but an analysis of all the facts seems to prove that centuries before Columbus a white man did actually visit the Mayans. He taught them many things, and in the laws he gave them were, it seems, the moral observances and the legends mentioned. The priests of the native gods, fearing the influence his teachings were gaining, expelled him from the country. The leasons remained fixed in the memories of those he had taught, however, and were pictured in the stones so recently identified. At the same time, side by side, with the stranger's code was observed the code of the ancient gods. Only in this way can the mystery be at all answered. Who Quetzalcoatl really was can never be known, but he must have been a Christian, and a man

of enormously strong personality. It is another odd thing, in passing, that in the picture Copyright, 1914, by the Star Company. Great Britain Rights Reserved.

writings identified as telling the story of the Fall, the Tree of Knowledge is often deploted as a cocoa tree, and

the cross in the great sacred city of Palenque.

the principal temples. This group shows a cross-like structure with a human figure at each side, and other details. It is covered with closely set hieroglyphia characters. Apparently a scene closely resembling the basic act of the Christian religion is here represented. Whether this is a mere coincidence, or whether Christianity was brought to this land in some forgotten



## The Dress That Made Paris Vow to Reform Its Fashions

HE world has doubtless been surprised by the news that Paris leaders of fashion have declared that Paris fashions must be more modest. The world, and particularly the American

part of it, have had an idea that Paris and modesty were not on speaking terms, but they were mistaken. Here is the gown that made the Parisian society leaders declare that this sort of thing

It is said to be the most decollete costume ever worn in a respectable public place. It was designed by one of the most noted couturiers of Paris, and was greatly deplored by society because the very best designers have, as a rule, refused to follow the extremes in undress, for which Parisian fashions have recently become notorious.

had gone far enough.

The offending gown was worn by one of the handsomest and best known actresses of She appeared in it one evening at one of the best restaurants of the city, before a large gathering of men and women of high social position, including a number of American visitors. Several Frenchwomen, including a distin-

when they saw the startling dress. It is urged on behalf of the dress that it is beautiful and artistic. This fact is admitted by many of those who criticized it. They even admit that it might not be considered offensive or be out of place on the stage, but it is pronounced to be entirely unsuited for purely social occasions. Those who are seeking to correct the taste of Paris mainfain

This gown is cut down to the waist at the back, and nearly as low is front. It is held to the shoulders by a very open network of nearls. A light swathing of very transparent gause is thrown over the shoulders. This hides nothing, but lends an additional softness and allurement to the expanse of white

The skirt is a gracefully draped affair of velvet liberally slit in front and exposing bare limbs shod with shoes of a modified

It is significant that immediately after the apparition of this gown the leading titled women of Paris society issued their manifesto, urging all women good breeding to do their utmost to discourage immodest and extreme fashions.

Hence, many now speak of it as "the gown that made us reform. There were. however, many other facts that led the more seri-

## To Make Shipwreck Perfectly Safe

VERY ingenious device has been in vented by a German, Gustav Heinrich, which he declares will deprive shipwreck of all its terrors under all circum-Furnished with this device a passenger

might be thrown into mid-Atlantic and live in comfort for many days while waiting to be picked up. The apparatus is made of watertight canvas. It has sleeves ending in gloves. There is a port hole in the head which can be

closed when the weather is rough. the port hole is closed air enters through a tube above the head. No water can enter through this. The man or woman using this device stands with his feet in a sort of bucket which forms the base. This bucket takes a certain quantity of water

which acts as ballast, and keeps the lifesaver and its occupant up right. Sufficient food and drink can be taken aboard to keep the passenger alive for a week or The apparatus is provided with a revolver and signal lights, with which the shipwrecked passenger can signal for help by day or night. Attached to the apparatus are ropes

tune to have life-saving outfits of their It is proposed that one suit of this kind should be provided for every person on a ship. At present, as has been proved by many terrible disasters, there are no adequate provisions for saving life in case of a sudden sinking of the ship through collision

any other cause. The boats are not sufficient to carry all passengers, and it seems doubtful whether a sufficient number will eyer be provided, although an unusually active a vement for in-suring safety at sea has been coing on lately. In any case shipwrecked passengers may be thrown in the sea with such haste that there no chance for them to get into the boats. In such accidents the boats may be sunk or

made useless from many causes. The lifesaving suits at present provided are comparatively little use in case of a shipwreck in midocean.



Mid-ocean

