

their adherence to forms and usages; their skill in minute manufacturers; their imitative genius; their patient perseverance in the execution of difficult enterprises, and the celestial claims of the Incas, are all characteristic of the Chinese.*

They bore a still closer resemblance to the people of Hindoostan in their division into castes, their worship of the heavenly bodies and the elements of nature, and their scientific knowledge of agriculture. They also resembled the Egyptians in the same particulars, and also in their practice of embalming the dead.†

In their land tenures and agrarian laws, they seem to have copied closely from the ancient Spartans; and the coincidences between them both and certain reformers of our own times, are still more remarkable. In civil polity, some have discovered apparent resemblances between the Peruvians and the Romans and Anglo-Saxons; but these relate entirely to expedients which would very naturally suggest themselves to a semi-civilized people. It is indeed quite natural to suppose that some features of the Peruvian and Mexican civilization were indigenous, and yet its main characteristics are too strongly marked, to admit of such an explanation, and viewed in connection with all the other facts of their history, we are fully warranted in looking to the nations of the Old World, for the types of that civilization.

By the indications of their progress over the continent, we had before traced the various branches of the Indian race back to the north-west coast and into the Ocean, and returned to find, in their mythology, laws and institutions, and the general features of the civilization of the more cultivated tribes, new bearings to guide us in our search for a more specific origin.

* Conquest of Peru, vol. 1, p. 164. "Count Carli," says Mr. Prescott, "has amused himself with tracing out the different points of resemblance between the Chinese and the Peruvians. The emperor of China was styled the Son of Heaven, or of the Sun. He also (like the Inca) held a plough once a year, in the presence of his people, to show his respect for agriculture, and (as in Peru) the solstices and equinoxes were noticed to determine the period of their religious festivals. The coincidences are curious."

† *Ibid.*